

Oriental Bird Club



Bulletin 21 • July 1995



The Oriental Bird Club aims to:

- encourage an interest in the birds of the Oriental region and their conservation.
- liaise with and promote the work of existing regional societies.
- collate and publish material on Oriental birds.

Two bulletins and a journal, *Forktail*, are published annually

Corporate Sponsors of OBC

The partnership that works for bird conservation in Asia.

Bird and Wildlife Bookshop
Birdquest
Birdwatch
Cygnus Wildlife Holidays
In Focus
Leica Camera
Malaysian Tourism Promotion Board
Murphy's Wildlife
Naturetrek
Nikon UK
Ornitholidays
Sunbird
Wildwings



The Oriental Bird Club is a Registered
Charity No: 297242

OBC Council

Richard Bosanquet (Membership Database); Steve Broyd (Sales Officer); Mike Crosby; Nona Finch; Daryl Gardner (Secretary); Nick Gardner (Promotions Officer); Eng-Li Green (Publicity Officer); Graeme Green (UK Meetings Officer); Melanie Heath (Conservation Officer); Carol Inskipp; Tim Inskipp (*Forktail* Editor/ Checklist Co-ordinator); Frank Lambert; Nigel Lindsey; Adrian Long (Bulletin Editor); Peter Morris; Adrian Pitches; Colin Poole; Nick Pope (Membership Administration); Nigel Redman (Chairman); Graeme Spinks (Treasurer); Simon Stirrup; Dave Weaver (International Meetings Officer).

OBC Representatives

Alan McBride and Richard Noske (Australia); Anisuzzaman Khan (Bangladesh); Filip Verbelen (Belgium); Prof. Yao-Kuang Tan (China); Dr Jiri Mlíkovský (Czech Republic); Jesper Madsen and Anders Prieme (Denmark); Hannu Jannes (Finland); Jean-Claude Porchier (France); Axel Braunlich (Germany); Mike Chalmers and David Melville (Hong Kong); Asad Rahmani and Toby Sinclair (India); Derek Holmes and Bas van Balen (Indonesia); Chris Murphy (Ireland); Carlo Violani (Italy); Akira Hibi (Japan); Jin-Young Park (Korea); Dennis Yong and Mike Chong (Malaysia); Rajendra Suwal (Nepal); Frank Rozendaal and Jelle Scharringa (Netherlands); Øystein Størkersen (Norway); Ashiq Ahmad Khan (Pakistan); Prof. Blas R. Tabaranza, Jr. (Philippines); Lim Kim Seng (Singapore); Dr Sareth Kotagama and Upali Ekanayake (Sri Lanka); Per Alström (Sweden); Dr Beat Wartmann (Switzerland); Philip Round and Uthai Treesucon (Thailand); Dr Robert Kennedy (USA); Jonathan Eames and Dr Nguyen Cu (Vietnam).

OBC Editorial Committee

Mike Crosby, Guy Dutson, Rob Innes, Tim Inskipp (*Forktail* Editor), Frank Lambert (Assistant *Forktail* Editor), Adrian Long (Bulletin Editor), Colin Poole, Michael Rank, Nigel Redman, Craig Robson, Helen Taylor.

Membership of OBC

Membership of the Club is open to all and costs £12 per annum (£8 reduced rate for nationals living in Oriental countries), £16 Family, £36 Corporate Members, £20 Sponsoring Member (supporting the Honorary Membership Scheme), and £20 for organisations, libraries and universities. Special arrangements for payment exist in USA, Thailand and India. To join or for further details please contact the Membership Secretary, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K.

Cover illustration:

Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor* by Richard Allen. This critically endangered species was recently rediscovered – Find out more on pages 24 – 27.



Rubythroat Publications
6 Corinthian Close,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire RG22 4TN

ISSN 0268-9634



Contents

2 **Club News**

7 **Conservation Fund**
Compiled by Melanie Heath and Carol Inskipp

15 **Around the Orient**
Compiled by Colin Poole

39 **Little-known Oriental Bird**
Kozlov's Bunting *Emberiza koslowi*
Urban Olsson

46 **To the Editor**
■ **Tibetan Rosefinch *Koslowia roborowskii* sightings on the Tibetan plateau**
Chikara Otani
■ **A record of Goliath Heron in Assam**
Steve Madge

53 **Birdwatching Areas**
Kerinci-Seblat National Park, Sumatra
Joe Tobias

58 **Recently Published**
■ **Pheasant jungles**
■ **Ornithology of the Indian subcontinent**
■ **Birds of Hong Kong and South China**
■ **Jungles of Borneo**

62 **Free Press**
Compiled by Guy Dutson

63 **Stray Feathers**

68 **From the Field**
Compiled by Mike Crosby

21 **A survey of birds in Qingshuihe District, Inner Mongolia, China**
Yang Guisheng and Xing Lianlian

24 **Forest loss, extinctions and last hope for birds on Cebu**
Thomas Brooks, Perla Magsalay, Guy Dutson and Richard Allen

28 **Siburan – key area for birds on Mindoro**
Thomas Brooks, Guy Dutson, Leonardo Gabutero and Rob Timmins

34 **At the crossroads of two avifaunas – Timor**
Richard A. Noske

45 **Treeswifts**
Phil Chantler

50 **Sumatran Cochoa *Cochoa beccarii* on Gunung Merinci, Sumatra**
Bill Simpson

Club News



Forthcoming OBC Meetings

Don't forget to note the following dates in your diaries, and please contact Graeme Green +44 (0)1296-631089 for more information on OBC meetings, including if you would like to have a sales stand at any of the meetings listed below.

Cincinnati, U.S.A., Saturday 19 August

The joint AOU/OBC Symposium on Asian Tropical Ornithology is scheduled for Saturday 19 August 1995, as part of the AOU's annual meeting. Nine speakers are currently signed up and the final programme for the symposium will be announced shortly (but too late for inclusion in this Bulletin). North American members will have been circulated separately about the meeting, but any other member who wishes to attend should contact Nigel Redman immediately at the OBC's address.

Rutland, 18-20 August

As usual the Club will have a stand at the annual British Birdwatching Fair at Eggleton Nature Reserve, Rutland Water, on 18-20 August. In addition to Club sales, membership desk and daily illustrated talks, we also hope to show videos of Oriental birds and demonstrate the OBC information which can now be accessed through the Internet (see below). Come and visit us at Rutland!

Blakeney, Norfolk, Sunday 27 August

The annual August Bank Holiday meeting in Blakeney, Norfolk, will be as usual in Blakeney Village Hall and doors open at 11h00. Speakers lined up for the meeting include Simon Cook on southern India and Seb Buckton on forktails. There will be the usual sales stands, refreshments and a bar. Further information will be available at the British Birdwatching Fair.

Regent's Park, London, Saturday 9 December

The 1995 AGM will be held as usual at the meeting rooms at London Zoo, Regent's Park. Speakers lined up include Jim Siddell, Clive Mann (Brunei) and Jon Riley (Talaud and Sangihe expedition). A full agenda will be circulated with the November Bulletin.

World birding weekend at Swanwick in 1997

Another date for your diaries (if you have one this far ahead!): Plans are well advanced for a weekend conference to be held jointly with the African Bird Club, Neotropical Bird Club, Ornithological Society of the Middle East, British Trust for Ornithology and British Ornithologists' Union. The dates will be 5-7 April 1997 and the venue is the residential conference centre at Swanwick, Derbyshire, U.K. This weekend has now been booked and a steering committee of representatives from the various clubs are currently putting together a programme. Further details will be announced in due course.

Checklist sponsorship

The Club is extremely grateful to Lady McNeice who has most generously donated £3,000 (US\$ 4,500) for the production of the forthcoming OBC Checklist. This very welcome donation will cover a large proportion of the expected costs of this important publication. Further details about the Checklist, including a pre-publication offer to members, will be released shortly.

Birds of Burma and Birds of Borneo

A unique opportunity has arisen to buy first and second editions of these classics of Oriental ornithology from the collection of the author himself. Bertram Smythies has most generously donated six books to the Club, four copies of *Birds of Burma* and two copies of *Birds of Borneo*, so that they can be auctioned and the proceeds used for conservation in the region.

Having taken professional advice on their valuation, Council agreed that the books should be auctioned by sealed bid. Reserve prices have been placed on each book and successful bidders will have to match or exceed these prices. A description of each volume for auction is included on the flyer enclosed with this Bulletin. First and second editions of both titles are scarce (the first edition of the *Birds of Burma* is particularly rare), and these books are personal and/or inscribed copies of the author, sometimes with annotations.

This is therefore a unique chance to acquire a small piece of ornithological history and a book worthy of any collection.

The deadline for receipt of sealed bids is 1 December 1995. Bids should be sent to OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL, U.K., and clearly marked 'Book Auction' in the top left hand corner. It is hoped that successful bidders will be able to collect their books – and pay for them! – at the AGM in London on 9 December.

The Club is very grateful indeed to Bertram Smythies for his very generous donation.

New sponsor for Conservation Awareness Award



The Club is most indebted to WildWings for agreeing at very short notice to sponsor the Conservation Awareness Award. Accordingly this important conservation initiative will now be known as the OBC-WildWings Award for Conservation Awareness. Many members will have met the WildWings team (including John Brodie-Good, the Managing Director of WildWings) at our meetings, while their principal tour leader, Dick Filby has become synonymous with the now established and very successful Blakeney meetings. For information on the wide range of travel services and birdwatching holidays organised by WildWings please, refer to their advertisement in this issue.

The Club is also extremely grateful to our main sponsor, Leica Camera Ltd, for agreeing to increase their support of the seventh Forktail-Leica Award for bird conservation. The award will now be £1,500.

Two more Corporate Sponsors

Since the start of 1995 The Natural History Book Service (NHBS) has been managing the OBC Book Service and we hope that members are now enjoying the benefits of this new arrangement. As part of the overall sponsorship package, NHBS have become our thirteenth corporate sponsor and indeed some of the colour plates in this issue have been sponsored by them. Thanks to the generosity of Corporate Sponsors such as NHBS we can continue offering members even more colour in the Bulletin and at no extra cost to members.

Our fourteenth corporate sponsor, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT), is our first outside

the U.K. VENT have regularly advertised in the bulletin and are one of the most established bird tour operators in the US. Amongst their impressive range of birding and natural history tours are those to destinations such as India, Thailand, Malaysia (including Borneo), Japan, Indonesia and Nepal. Already the funds from VENT have been awarded to a project surveying kingfishers at Tangkoko Nature Reserve in Sulawesi.

Also we would like to thank Ornitholidays for making a further donation of £500 to the Conservation Fund. Ornitholidays was our third corporate sponsor and their continued generosity underlines the commitment of Ornitholidays to supporting conservation in Asia.

1995 T-Shirt – Sultan Tit and Scarlet Minivets

The new 1995 T-Shirt is now available to members. In keeping with the OBC tradition of producing quality merchandise the new T-Shirt features a stunning design by Martin Woodcock depicting Sultan Tit and a pair of Scarlet Minivets. The new T-Shirt is featured in colour on the new 1995 sales leaflet/order form, a copy of which is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin. The new sales leaflet also features the entire range of OBC T-Shirts and OBC Sweatshirt. A special multiple purchase offer is available to members buying five or more T-Shirts. Members will wish to note that a range of back issues of the Bulletin and *Forktail* are also featured on the Sales Leaflet.

OBC arrives on the Internet

OBC is participating in a voluntary project to publicise its activities through the Internet – the world's largest computer network. The project aims to reach out to potential new members who would not otherwise know about OBC, presenting the Club's aims, membership details, Club news and a preview of its publications with selected articles from previously published Bulletins.

The Internet is a rapidly growing network of computers connecting companies, government organisations, universities, colleges, schools, charities, libraries, museums, homes and even 'cybercafés' in more than 60 countries. Theoretically, anybody with an interest in Oriental birding can now read about OBC from any one of several million computers on the Internet through the World-Wide Web information service. By

using the World-Wide Web the project is able to deliver not just text but also digitised illustrations and photographs such as the memorable Ceylon Frogmouth from Bulletin 17. In fact it is even possible for audio to be presented using this medium so that, for example, readers could listen to bird sound recordings!

The OBC World-Wide Web pages were announced on the Internet on 15 May 1995, alongside similar material for the African Bird Club, and is signposted from the main Internet directories such as Lycos and Galaxy. By 2 June the project pages had been accessed at least 4,873 times, attracting a global readership including visitors from Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, The Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand and the U.S.A., as well as the U.K. At the time of writing the first new member has been recruited through the Internet.

If you have Internet access you can view the OBC pages by pointing a World-Wide Web browser such as Netscape or NCSA Mosaic at: <http://www.gold.net/users/dj10/obchome.html> Alternatively, you can send electronic mail enquiries about how to access the World-Wide Web to Alan Wilkinson at aw@cityscape.co.uk.

To develop the project further we would like to obtain more web space on a suitable Internet connected computer. If you can help by providing web space directly or by sponsoring the purchase of web space please contact the Club Secretary. (Contributed by Alan Wilkinson)

Best ever Mega-Prize Draw

The raffle drawn at the end of 1994 raised over £4,300 and as such was our most successful. Amazingly, the much-coveted Leica 10x42 binoculars were won by our Australian representative, Alan McBride, while the £500 In Focus purchase voucher went to John Ward in Northamptonshire. As always the success of the raffle is dependent on the quality of the prizes and special thanks must go to Leica Camera Ltd, In Focus, WildWings, Oxford University Press, A&C Black, Birdwatch, Birding World, British Birds and WildSounds. Birdwatch, Birding World and British Birds also helped by circulating the raffle tickets in their respective magazines. Finally we would like to thank all of you who purchased raffle tickets and especially those of you who sold numerous tickets to your friends.



The Cake!

Photo: Tim Loseby

10th anniversary AGM in London

With the prospect of a fascinating selection of talks and the chance to meet so many other members and friends in the congenial atmosphere of London Zoo's meeting rooms, the 10th anniversary AGM was destined to be a success. As expected, attendance was as high as ever. After a short introduction from the Chairman, Alan Greensmith took us on a lighthearted tour of Hong Kong and central China, complete with all its hardships for the solo birder, and illustrated by his own splendid slides. After lunch Melanie Heath presented a superbly illustrated review of the Club's Conservation Fund, demonstrating the wide range of projects funded over the past ten years which cover almost every country in the region. Stephen Nash then gave us a comprehensive, if depressing, account of the bird trade in South-East Asia – we all know it goes on but few realise the full extent of this major threat to Oriental birds. The final talk of the day was a detailed review of the identification of the crowned group of *Phylloscopus* warblers by Per Alström. The presentation was superb with close-up slides (mainly in the hand) projected two at a time onto two screens and accompanied by tape recordings. If anyone thought they could distinguish these difficult species before the meeting, they were probably totally bewildered by the end of the day! The variation between taxa and indeed populations is often considerable and in many cases certain identification can be achieved only by a combination of features.

The programme ran smoothly, we were well fed (as usual) by Nona and Graham Finch and there were plenty of things to buy. For the first time NHBS ran our book stall and managed to

dispose of a large quantity of books from their well-stocked tables. Duncan Macdonald of WildSounds similarly had a wide selection of CDs and tapes for sale. One of the highlights of the day was 'The Cake' – a special anniversary cake featuring a map of the Oriental Region and, of course, a forktail! The design had been kept a closely guarded secret, even from most Council members, but there was enough for a piece for everyone present. It was a memorable meeting, and our thanks go to all the speakers, to those who helped on the day and especially to Mrs George who not only baked the cake but kindly donated it to the Club.

OBC Singapore meeting

Some 88 people attended this three-day meeting, held in October 1994, organised by the Nature Society of Singapore for the purpose of getting together birdwatchers from the Oriental Region for an informal discussion on birding, bird conservation and possible joint projects.

Some 32 people attended the first day's evening indoor meeting at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve Visitor Centre. After a brief welcome speech and a scrumptious Muslim dinner, the audience was treated to a slide-talk on 'Conservation in Singapore' by the NSS Conservation Committee Chairman, Dr Ho Hua Chew, Singapore's leading nature conservationist. This was followed by an absorbing account of 'The birds of Mai Po Nature Reserve' by Peter Kennerley, a Hong Kong resident for ten years and a regular visitor to this fabulous reserve.

Day two started at the famed Sime Road Forest with some NSS birdwatchers acting as guides for our Malaysian guests and, then shifted to Sungei Buloh where the globally threatened Asian Dowitcher and a few thousand other waders were seen. The evening session again attracted over 30 participants who were also shown samples of OBC publications as well as posters from BirdLife International (Indonesia). After dinner, it was time again for the slide-shows, with the first for the night given by Paul Jepson, a former OBC Chairman and the International Coordinator for the BirdLife Indonesia Programme, on 'Conservation in Indonesia', illustrated in part by the excellent slides by Morten Strange of some Halmahera endemics. Dr S. A. Hussain of the Bombay Natural History Society gave the second slide-show on 'Birds of India', focusing on some threatened Indian species like the Indian Bustard,

Bengal Florican and the Narcondam Hornbill of the Andaman Islands.

Day three saw a group of 14 birders taking a minibus to the species-rich Panti Forest Reserve in Johore at first light. The intrepid birders were not disappointed, seeing some excellent birds like Banded Kingfisher, Orange-backed Woodpecker and the rare Black-and-white Bulbul.

A farewell dinner at a well-known Indonesian restaurant that evening ended the OBC Singapore meeting proper, with all present agreeing that it was a worthwhile undertaking and that another one should be organised perhaps next year by one of our ASEAN neighbours.

This meeting featured participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia and host country Singapore, who were participating in the annual Singapore Bird Race. A record total of 16 teams participated in this year's, which started on 22 October at 17h00 and ended 24 hours later at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve Visitor Centre. The haze from forest fires in Kalimantan and South Sumatra hampered visibility and aided teams with 'good ears'. The winning team scored a total of 136 species, way below the 1991 record of 154, and the runners-up scored 132, the closest result in the race's 11-year history.

The meeting and bird race were organised by the NSS and made possible through the help of the following members: Alfred Chia, Lim Kim Keang, Alan Owyong, Sutari Supari and Sunny Yeo, who helped with making all the arrangements for overseas guests, guiding and photography. Grateful thanks are also extended to the four speakers, Dr Ho Hua Chew, Peter Kennerley, Paul Jepson and Dr S. A. Hussain, and to the National Parks Board for the use of the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve Visitor Centre.

Contributed by Lim Kim Seng

Joint OBC/Yorkshire Birding meeting

Our 'spring' meeting this year was held in February, at the kind invitation of Yorkshire Birding. This joint meeting took place in Headingley, Leeds and was well attended. Two of the three talks related to the Oriental Region. Doug James, visiting the U.K. from Arkansas, U.S.A., opened the meeting with a fascinating talk about the Great Hornbill in south-west India. His presentation of an academic study in a truly accessible manner was well received, attracting almost a record number of questions from an

enthralled audience. It was a hard act to follow, but Mick Turton, in his inimitable and entertaining style, treated us to an account of his travels in Nepal and Tibet. While awakening memories for some, the hardships endured in his quest for elusive Himalayan birds was a revelation to others. Thanks are due to Andy Gibson for organising this meeting.

Vacancies on Council

It is already that time of year when we have to think about recruiting new Council members. As usual some members are stepping down and we have to find new people to fill their places. This year we are looking for a Meetings Officer and also editorial assistance (both *Bulletin* and *Forktail*). If you think you might be able to help (or indeed offer any other skills or time to the Club) please contact the Chairman, Nigel Redman, immediately. We look forward to hearing from you!

Membership to reach 1,500 in 1995?

The increase in new members continues unabated, with applications arriving in every batch of post. At the time of writing the total number of members exceeds 1,400 and is now fast approaching 1,500. It seems very likely that we should reach this figure by the end of the year, providing all those who were members in 1994 re-subscribe. If anyone reading this has not resubscribed for 1995 please act now!

DBTRS – Dutch Birding Travel Report Service

We have recently received the latest catalogue (Catalogue number 4) from DBTRS. The catalogue lists over 1,000 trip reports written by birders for birders, and has an extensive collection of reports from the Oriental Region. Brief details are given for each report using an innovative symbol system which allows prospective purchasers to quickly see the essentials such as the length of the report, number of maps, date of visit etc. The system works well on the whole although it is initially fiddly to use, and there is no attempt to grade the quality and accuracy of the report. The cost is a modest Dfl 0,30 (approximately 10 pence) per page, which is considerably less than other similar services. More importantly, since May 1994, all profits go to a charity called Nature-school in Gröningen which specialises in promoting conservation through outdoor biology and

geography programmes for schools. Any birder travelling overseas requiring information should take a look at this catalogue prior to departure.

New trip reports available through OBC Information Officer

Amongst new reports received by the OBC Information Officer are two which may be of particular interest as little information currently exists for the regions concerned. The first, 'Some prime birding sites in Vietnam' by Nick Dymond, is a brief 14-page report giving logistical and birding information and maps for five prime birding sites in this as yet little-explored though exciting country. The second is a 70-page report covering South India, Sri Lanka and the Andaman Islands, by Brian Gee. This excellently produced report should aid any visiting birders to see the specialities in these regions with its clear directions, maps and travel tips. It is actually produced as three mini-reports so that birders only visiting part of the area covered are able to take just the relevant section rather than the whole report. The former is available for £1.50 and the latter £10.00, both excluding postage and packing.

Late appearance of OBC publications

We apologise for the late appearance of *Bulletin* 20 and *Forktail* 10. With ever bigger and better issues of both publications, the editing and production take even longer than before. A huge amount of work goes into both publications, in particular by their respective editors who also have to earn their living doing their normal jobs!

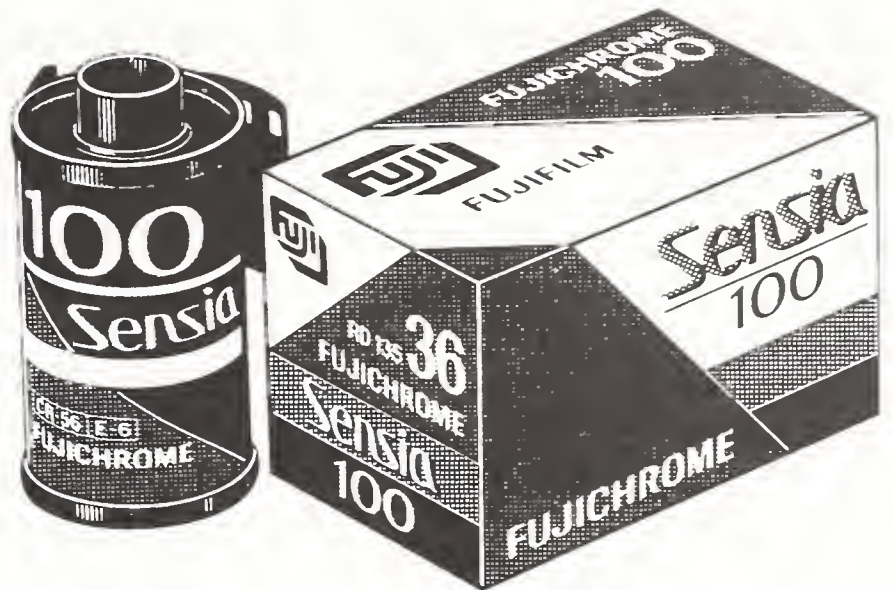
It is intended that the three publications should be spread out as evenly as possible throughout the year so that members receive something every four months or so, but this is not always possible. For information, we aim to publish the 'spring' *Bulletin* in May/June and the 'autumn' *Bulletin* in October/November. For some years now *Forktail* has appeared in January/February and this fits in quite well with the *Bulletins*. We do hope that late publications are worth waiting for!

India Special Bulletin in November

The November 1995 issue of this *Bulletin* will be dedicated to India. If you are interested in writing an article or in supplying photographs or artwork for this special issue please contact the OBC *Bulletin* Editor at the Club's U.K. address.

Free Fujichrome Sensia for Bird Photographers

Whilst stocks last the Club will be giving bird photographers one free roll of the award-winning slide film, Fujichrome Sensia as a way of expressing thanks for using their photographs in the bulletin. Whilst the film we will be giving away includes processing, Fujichrome Sensia is also available in a non-process-paid version for developing through any E6 laboratory in 100, 200 and 400 ISO speeds. In addition to being named 'European Colour Slide Film of the Year' by the European Awards Panel, it has already claimed the top sales slot in the process-paid slide film sector. The superb quality of Fujichrome Sensia can be seen from Pete Morris's photographs in this issue, of Mindoro Bleeding-Heart *Gallicolumba platenae*, all of which were taken using the 200 ISO version, and demonstrates its versatility in a forest environment. Fujichrome Sensia is widely acclaimed as representing a new milestone in slide film technology thanks to its wide exposure latitude and fine grain, while thinner colour dyes combined with homogenised crystals deliver perfect colour saturation in a neutral style. For more information on Fujichrome Sensia please contact Fuji Photo Film (UK) Ltd, Customer Services, 125 Finchley Road, London NW3 6JH. The Club hopes that this is the beginning of a closer partnership with Fuji and we will be able to announce more ambitious plans in the near future.



FUJICHROME Sensia 100

Help to OBC

OBC Editorial Committee would like to thank Rob Still of Rubythroat Publications for his patience and help in getting this issue completed, to Michelle Hines for typing parts of this Bulletin and Scott Hibbert for help on the colour section of the 1995 sales leaflet.

OBC thanks Alan Wilkinson warmly for all his hard work in setting up the Internet facility for the Club.



Forktail-Leica Conservation Award 1994

The 1994 Forktail-Leica Award was won by Chinese ornithologist Wen Xianji who will use the £1,000 grant to research the Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* in southern Yunnan. The Green Peafowl, found in lowland forest near rivers or marshes from north-east India to peninsular Malaysia, is classified as Vulnerable by BirdLife International. Wen Xianji plans to survey the current range and status of the species in southern Yunnan and to investigate the occurrence of the species in north-west Yunnan. The results of these surveys together with already completed work in the west and centre of the province will allow the formulation of conservation recommendations for the species which will be made available to the government and international conservation organizations.

Conservation Fund

Compiled by Melanie Heath and Carol Inskipp

OBC-In Focus Conservation Awareness Award 1994

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the first OBC-In Focus Conservation Awareness Award was given to Rinekso Soekmadi of the Biodiversity Conservation Indonesia Foundation to fund a conservation education training course for 20 elementary school teachers in Bogor and surrounding areas. The role of elementary school teachers is extremely important in educating the next generation about the environment and natural resource conservation. However, many teachers also require further training in this area. Therefore, the aim of this training course on conservation for elementary school teachers is to improve knowledge and understanding of the environment and conservation. The course will also advise teachers on how to integrate this material into the formal curricula and how best to convey the information to children in the classroom.

Birds of the Polillo Islands

Juan Carlos Gonzalez has been awarded a grant of £500 to conduct a study of the ecology and distribution of resident and migratory birds in the Polillo archipelago, off the east coast of Luzon in the Philippines. Studies will focus on the islands with most remaining forest and will encompass different altitudes. The data collected will be used as a basis to promote habitat conservation campaigns for the development of reserves on the islands.

Avifauna of Sacred Groves in North Kerala

A grant of £500 has been awarded to Sashikumar to study the avifauna within an area of sacred groves in North Kerala, India. These sacred groves are patches of tropical evergreen forest varying in extent from 1 to 35 hectares, protected as places of worship. The project will study the population, movements and breeding biology of birds in the sacred groves and help spread awareness among the local people and government agencies on the importance of these groves in conserving biodiversity in India.

Catalogue of Indian heronries

Dr. S. Subramanya was awarded a grant of £500 to help fund the preparation of a publication 'The Catalogue of Indian Heronries' aimed at birdwatchers, researchers and conservationists alike. There are 40 species in India belonging to the Pelecaniformes and Ciconiiformes and, although a large number of nesting sites of these birds can be expected to occur in India, only a few heronries are known today. This catalogue will bring together both published and unpublished data on these groups and thus help to identify conservation priorities for Indian heronries.

Birdwatching course, Indonesia

Pramana Yuda was awarded £500 to fund a birdwatching course in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This course is aimed to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of birds and the importance of bird conservation. One high school has been selected as a pilot for this course, which will comprise both theoretical and practical sessions. The aim is to develop a bird watching club at the end of the course and involve the participants in the Yogyakarta bird monitoring programme coordinated by Kutilang Indonesian Bird Club IBC.

Bird survey of the Narayani River, Nepal

A grant of £500 has been given to Narayan Dhakal of the Nepal Conservation Research and Training Centre (NCRTC) to survey the birds of the Narayani River in the Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP), Nepal. Shifting cultivation, overgrazing, fire and poorly maintained marginal arable lands have severely degraded the quality of the riverine vegetation, leading to declines in bird populations using the river system. Uncontrolled and untreated discharge of effluents into the Narayani River from industry and the uncontrolled use of pesticides in agriculture are also major problems affecting the river system. Narayan will work with five colleagues from the RCNP, NCRTC and local nature guides to survey bird species along the stretch of the river in the park, document them, look at habitat preferences, monitor the water quality and thus assess the impacts of human activities on the bird populations. This information will be used to help the future planning and management of the birds within the park.

Study of kingfishers in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Sunarto, a student in biology at the University of Indonesia, has been awarded a grant of £500 to part-fund a study of the nine kingfisher species occurring in Tangkoko Nature Reserve in North Sulawesi. The data collected on the kingfishers will be used to determine the species' habitat preferences, ecology, behaviour, population and distribution, and thus lead to the recommendation of suitable habitat management practices for the family within the reserve.

Forktails as indicators of environmental change



Slaty-backed Forktail Enicurus schistaceus by Seb Buckton

A grant of £500 has been awarded to the ornithologist Hem Sagar Baral to study forktails *Enicurus* spp. along streams in Langtang and Likhu Khola in Nepal. Habitat degradation, erosion, and the application of pesticides and fertilizers are all occurring on a large scale with detrimental effects on river structure, function and biodiversity. Some of these changes will have consequences for birds which depend on rivers for food and habitat. Among the Himalayan river bird community, forktails are potentially important indicators of catchment change on the ecology of river birds. Hem Sagar Baral, together with Seb Buckton of Cardiff University, aims to find out more about the impact of such changes through investigations of environmental influences on the distribution, diet, habitat use, activity patterns and behaviour of forktails.

Expedition to Talaud and Sangihe

A grant of £500 has been awarded to students from Sam Ratulangi University in Sulawesi as part of the University of York Exploration Society Talaud and Sangihe Expedition 1995. Students from both universities will spend three months studying the threatened endemic avifauna of this island group off northern Sulawesi. The main threat to these species is habitat destruction and on Sangihe only two patches of primary forest remain. The aim of this project is to clarify the status of and threats to the island's endemic avifauna and their habitat and, together with results of a human impact assessment, recommend long-term conservation measures for the species.

Fifth Forktail-Leica Award Avifaunal survey of Anshi National Park, India

CONSERVATION FUND IN ACTION

A bird survey was carried out in Anshi National Park in the Western Ghats, India. Anshi was declared a national park in 1987 in order to protect a pristine area of 250 km² of semi-evergreen and evergreen forest. A much larger area of surrounding forest had previously been cleared for the Kali Hydroelectric Project.

The park is internationally important for birds, lying within the Western Ghats Endemic Bird Area. Surveys carried out in summer, autumn and winter 1994 produced a total of 197 bird species in the park and its buffer zone. Details of localities, dates, habitats and altitudes were noted for all observations. Species endemic to the Western Ghats included the Malabar Grey-Hornbill *Ocyeros griseus*, Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides*, Black-and-rufous Flycatcher *Ficedula nigrorufa*, Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyura*, Rufous-breasted Laughingthrush *G. cachinnans* and Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufus*, as well as Nilgiri Wood-Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* and Nilgiri Flycatcher *Eumyias albicaudata*, which were common in the park. The White-naped Tit *Parus nuchalis*, a globally threatened species restricted to India, was also observed.

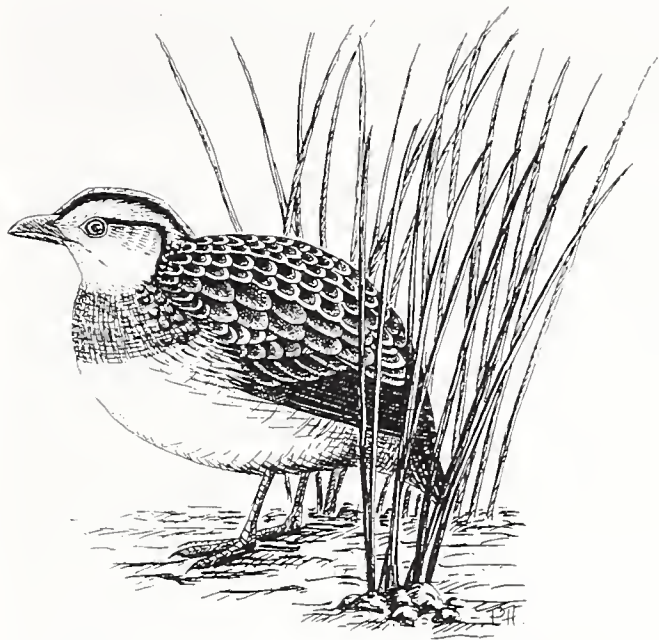
A survey was made of trees in the park and more than 200 species belonging to 44 families were found. Analyses of the chemical and physical characteristics were made of many standing and fresh waters in the park. Detailed recommendations were made to improve the management of the park. The survey report includes nearly 100 colour photographs of the park's birds, butterflies and plants.

The survey showed the great importance of the park for birds and other wildlife. The next phase of the Kali Hydroelectric Project threatens another 7,000 ha of Anshi's forests. It is hoped that the results of this survey will help to justify the cancellation of this next stage of the Kali project.

Dr J. C. Uttangi

Status, ecology and conservation of forest birds and butterflies of Sumba, Indonesia

A small grant of £500 funded an Indonesian member of the joint Manchester Metropolitan University/Indonesian expedition to Sumba in 1992. During this survey and the previous 1989 survey, research was carried out in eight of the remaining blocks of forest on the island. The main aims were to establish the habitat preferences and population sizes of the restricted-range birds and butterflies and to assess the importance of the forest areas for conservation. Transects and recording stations were set up in the forest areas. At each station a range of habitat variables (e.g. canopy cover, tree girths) were measured and the presence of all bird and butterfly species recorded. The habitat associations of the restricted-range bird and butterfly species were identified. The population sizes of the restricted-range birds were estimated for the island as a whole, and separately for the different blocks.



Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti*
by Pete Hines

All of Sumba's restricted-range bird species were recorded, although some were not seen often enough to allow analysis of habitat preferences or calculation of population densities. Although more research is needed, many of Sumba's endemic birds appear to be dependent on closed-canopy forest and are very vulnerable to further forest clearance. Some species are still insufficiently known. Sumba Hornbill *Aceros everetti* is probably the rarest endemic species, with the status of Sumba Buttonquail *Turnix everetti* and Sumba Boobook *Ninox rudolfi* still uncertain. Amongst the other birds considered in detail, the three parrot species, Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea*, Eclectus Parrot *Eclectus roratus* and Great-billed Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorynchos* are also forest-dependent and are seriously endangered. Although legal international trade in Yellow-crested Cockatoo is now banned, with such a low population, even small-scale illegal trade might have a significant effect on the species's population.

Six key forests for conservation on Sumba were identified. Their conservation value was assessed on the basis of their size, the total numbers of bird and butterfly species recorded, the numbers of restricted-range species recorded, the estimated population of each threatened bird species, and other factors.

Martin Jones

Bird Field Study Centre, Bhaktapur, Nepal

MURPHY'S WILDLIFE TOURS generously donated £500 to fund the development of birdwatching facilities in the ECCA Environmental Resource Centre near Bhaktapur in the Kathmandu Valley. ECCA, the Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness, is a Nepalese non-governmental organisation with the primary objective of providing a broad environmental programme for children by regularly running camps. The aim of the Bird Field Study Centre is to create an interest amongst young people in birdwatching and so help in bird conservation. The Centre will also help in training ECCA staff so that they will be able to carry out bird activities in camps held for children elsewhere in Nepal.

ECCA has developed its Environmental Resource Centre on 3220 m² of land situated at the base of a hill at the edge of the Kathmandu Valley. There is a small creek with some natural vegetation around it and adjacent to the ECCA land there is an attractive privately owned natural forest.

As a first step in developing the Bird Field Study Centre ECCA carried out a number of activities. The stream bed has several large natural hollows which were cleaned out to provide useful drinking and bathing pools for birds. Two water baths, each with about 2 m² of cement and pebbles, were made to act as additional drinking pools. A larger pond (4 m x 2.5 m) was created for aquatic plants, invertebrates and frogs. Bird nest boxes and bat boxes were built and fixed in suitable trees on the site. Two feeding platforms were erected. A bird hide overlooking the stream was constructed. Some basic books and video-cassettes on birdwatching and wildlife were bought. This is just a beginning and it is hoped that the Centre's resource

materials will grow in time. A record book listing the birds observed in the area by counsellors and campers is kept at the centre.

A birdwatching training camp was organized for ECCA counsellors from 9-11 September 1994. The training was designed to familiarize participants with basic birdwatching techniques, bird diversity, threats to birds and general ecology. They were also trained to make bird feeders, water baths, and nest and bat boxes. Rajendra Suwal and Hem Sagar Baral from Bird Conservation Nepal, the national non-governmental bird organization in Nepal, and two members of the Kathmandu Environment Education Project helped to run the course. Participants joined in birdwatching at the Centre and surveyed suitable places to fix their nest and bat boxes. On the last day the participants were asked to provide feedback on the training camp by writing down their views. The most popular activity was the birdwatching session.

Prakash Man Shrestha

Status of White-browed Bushchat, north-west India

A grant of £500 donated by CYGNUS WILDLIFE fully funded a survey of White-browed Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhyncha* in February and March 1993. Later surveys were made in July and August 1993, and in January, February and May 1994. This globally threatened species inhabits the semi-deserts of Pakistan and north-west India in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, and there are also one or two old records from Afghanistan. It has not been recorded recently from Pakistan.

A literature search was first made using records provided by the Bombay Natural History Society, OBC and BirdLife International, and a summary of available information on the species up to the time of the surveys is given in *OBC Bulletin* 17: 34.

Systematic searches for the species were conducted and during later surveys line transects were also carried out to estimate the abundance of birds in the Thar desert. The recent surveys show that the White-browed Bushchat may not be so threatened as once thought. The third survey during January-February 1994 was the most productive - a total of 81 individuals was located at 15 different sites in Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Ajmer districts. In Bikaner 25 birds were seen on a 40 km drive and in two line transects.

The White-browed Bushchat's typical habitat is dry sandy desert with a ground cover of generally 35% of low herbs, shrubs and very scattered bushes. The species was observed to feed entirely on insects which were caught by picking them from the ground or in aerial sallies. The birds have a curious and characteristic habit of puffing up the breast and swaying sideways. The reason for this behaviour is not known. It does not appear to be related to aggression or territoriality, but may possibly help to flush insect prey.

The White-browed Bushchat was previously considered sedentary, but the surveys revealed that it appears to have some local or perhaps some long distance movements. For instance



White-browed Bushchat
Saxicola macrorhyncha by
Carl D'Silva

during January 1994, 13 individuals were seen in and around Sam and Sudasari enclosures of the Desert National Park, but none was found in the same areas during May 1994 in three days of searching.

When the White-browed Bushchat was first discovered for science in 1872 it was considered local and patchily distributed, but not uncommon in some areas of desert and semi-desert. It has now disappeared from most semi-desert areas which appear to be marginal for the species, and the vast, waterless sandy plains of the Thar desert form its main stronghold. One of the main reasons for the species's range contraction could be loss of suitable habitat as improved irrigation has converted large tracts of semi-desert to croplands. There do not appear to be any other threats to the species.

In order to develop a conservation strategy for the White-browed Bushchat a project of at least two years will be necessary. The main aspects to be studied are a status survey throughout its range in different seasons; a study of local or migratory movements by marking birds; a study of its habitat requirements and the effect of the canal irrigation system; and a study of its general biology including breeding, which is still unknown.

Asad Rahmani

Annaivilundawa Tanks

An OBC small grant funded an avifaunal survey of Annaivilundawa in Sri Lanka. Annaivilundawa refers to the cluster of seven small, shallow irrigation tanks which constitute the Rattambala Oya Irrigation Scheme and their immediate surroundings, 60 km north of Colombo in Sri Lanka. Six of the seven tanks were surveyed. The landscape around these tanks is varied and composed of wetlands with open water, paddyfields, grass flats, trees and shrubs (indigenous dry zone vegetation) and coconut groves and village gardens.

Surveys recorded 143 resident or migrant bird species (belonging to 51 families) in the area. Records of interest included just one observation of Ceylon Grey-Hornbill *Ocyrceros gingalensis*, an endemic to the island, and formerly common in forests of the area. Also Ceylon Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii*, another endemic, and found to be a fairly common resident in wooded parts of the area. Also two pairs of Common Coot *Fulica atra* were seen, a rare bird in Sri Lanka.

In total one third of all bird species recorded in Sri Lanka and 40% of all resident birds were recorded, making this an area of considerable national importance. The area is also of international importance and listed as a Ramsar Site, meeting the criteria for Garganey *Anas querquedula* (2,700 birds).

The main threat to the area is a long-standing plan to provide additional water to the tanks, allowing paddy cultivation in both main seasons. If implemented, such a scheme would utterly ruin the area and its biological diversity, because of the inevitable use of insensitive, heavy machinery and the consequent destruction of trees and shrubs and the levelling of the paddyfields. The human population would increase.



Ceylon Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii* by
Nigel Lindsey

Another major threat is aquaculture, which pollutes the environment with toxic effluents and chemicals and depletes natural resources such as ground water.

It is proposed that the area be declared a sanctuary under the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance. This, if implemented, would ensure that there was no development of state land within the sanctuary. The tanks, their catchments, watercourses and scrubland belong to the state and would therefore be protected. Private lands would continue to be used in the traditional manner.

T.W. Hoffmann, Upali Ekanayake and Deepal Warakagoda

Malabar Grey-Hornbill

A small grant of £500 funded this study of the nesting habitat of the Malabar Grey-Hornbill *Ocyrceros griseus* in the Anaimalai hills of the Western Ghats in southern India. Preliminary results indicate that 27 nests were located and 26 nest-site variables recorded in each nest plot. The hornbills were found to select tall, live, trees with a large DBH (diameter at breast height).

Therefore selective logging of large trees for timber may limit the availability of suitable nest sites for these birds. It is recommended, therefore, that where logging is authorised by the state forest department, at least trees with existing nest cavities must be spared as the birds are dependent on traditional nest sites.

Most of the nest cavities were formed due to wood rot. Therefore the practice of 'improvement felling' i.e. removal of trees with cavities on the basis that they are diseased, will also be deleterious to the hornbills and must be stopped. Conversion of primary forest and plantations and monocultures, especially of exotics such as *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* spp. will also be detrimental to the hornbills as they depend on evergreen forests for nesting and foraging.

The study clearly indicates the need for mature moist forest for the Malabar Grey-Hornbill. Hornbills are seed dispersers of many rare rainforest trees and play an important role in the food-web structure and conservation of the rainforests in the Western Ghats. The data from this study complement the information collected by another OBC-funded project carried out by Kannan on the Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis*. When compared to nests of the sympatric and larger Great Hornbill it was found that the Malabar Grey-Hornbill consistently chose smaller trees. Results from these studies should be used to develop a conservation strategy to protect both species in this area.

Divya Mudappa



Around the Orient

Compiled by Colin Poole

BURMA (MYANMAR)

Ceasefires Increase Logging

The increasing number of ceasefires being signed between the Rangoon government and rebel groups in northern Burma is leading to an increase in logging. Spared the threat of government attack the groups are now free to log and sell timber to the Chinese. Most of the timber is coming from the high mountain passes of Kambaiti, Panwa and Hpimaw along the Chinese border in Kachin State. Formerly the most densely forested part of the north, it is estimated that the area will be totally deforested in three to four years. Following a ceasefire agreement last year between SLORC and the Kachin Independence Army, massive deforestation is now expected in other areas of Kachin, in particular in the watersheds surrounding the headwaters of the Irrawaddy, which are largely all under Kachin control.

CAMBODIA

Logging

In the early 1970s forest cover in Cambodia was 74% of the land area. Now it is a little over 30%, and King Norodom Sihanouk has warned that his country risks becoming a desert. Yet despite a logging ban that was imposed in 1992

it is reported that large-scale logging is still going on in Cambodia, the timber is being exported overland into Thailand. *Global Witness*, an NGO working on environmental and human rights issues, claims that at one border point alone 100 logging trucks were crossing out of Cambodia every day. The logging is allegedly under the control of the Cambodian military, and one single concession alone covers as much as 12% of Cambodia's remaining forest area, with the money being used to fund the continued fight against the Khmer Rouge. At the end of April 1995 the Cambodian government announced a total ban on the export of logs and sawn timber, but it remains to be seen whether this new legislation will be any more effective.

CHINA

New Site found for Elliot's Pheasant

A new site for Elliot's Pheasant *Syrnaticus ellioti* has been discovered at Leigong Shan Nature Reserve in Guizhou Province, south-west China. The 47,300 ha nature reserve is remote, about 200 km east of the provincial capital Guiyang, but the pheasants are under serious threat from local people who reportedly hunt and trap them in considerable numbers. *The Chinese Journal of*

Zoology, which reports the find, calls for a survey to be conducted to assess the Elliot's Pheasant population in the reserve. This is the most western of several new Elliot's Pheasant sites discovered in recent years, including Tongren and Jangkou, both in north-eastern Guizhou as well as unnamed sites in Guangxi and Hunan provinces. Another interesting aspect of these new records is that the known ranges of Reeves's *S. reevesii* and Elliot's Pheasant now meet or possibly even overlap, although maybe in different habitat types.

Contributed by Michael Rank.

HONG KONG

Mai Po under threat

Following the news in the last Bulletin (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20) that the Hong Kong government was actively considering Ramsar status for Mai Po and Deep Bay, things have gone from bad to worse for one of East Asia's premier waterbird areas. Firstly the decision on the Ramsar status has now been postponed. Originally promised by the end of 1994, it will now not to be announced until mid-1995.

More serious, however, has been the decision by the Town Planning Appeal Board to approve 'Sunnyville' – a development project within the Mai Po outer buffer zone. The buffer zones were

designated by the government, but the restrictions on use of the outer zone were left loose to allow specific 'approved' developments. Hong Kong's developers are now queuing up to take advantage of these loopholes. Sunnyville was approved last August, and involves an 18-hole golf course and a residential development for 9,000 people. It would destroy 98 ha of fish ponds at Nam Sang Wai, just 3 km from the Mai Po reserve.

The project had twice previously been rejected by the Appeal Board and the concern is that their approval now will give the green light for at least seven other proposed development projects, all previously rejected. If these projects go ahead – coupled with other pending private and Government projects – the total damage could eventually be the loss of over 40% of Deep Bay's remaining fish ponds. The fish ponds have recently been discovered to be important as feeding areas for many birds, particularly egrets *Egretta* sp. and also otters *Lutra lutra*.

Members wishing to voice concern over the approval given to development around Mai Po and the delay in the decision on Ramsar status are asked to write to H. E. The Governor, the Rt. Hon. Chris Patten, Government House, Upper Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong.

New sanctuary for dolphins

The Hong Kong government has announced that it will set up a 1,000 ha marine sanctuary to protect the local white population of Indo-Pacific Hump-backed Dolphin *Sousa chinensis* which has been



Cartoon © 1994 Larry Feign. Reprinted from South China Morning Post, 10th October 1994, by kind permission.

threatened by the new Chek Lap Kok Airport development. However, conservationists are still protesting over the proposed siting of an aviation fuel storage depot on Sha Chau, one of the two islands within the sanctuary. The taxonomy of these dolphin populations is still unclear, but the Hong Kong population is different from all others in that they become a striking pinky white as adults.

INDONESIA

Invisible Rails heard on Halamahera?

In July 1994 a PHPA/BirdLife team surveying sago swamp in the Ake Tajawe proposed protected area on Halmahera thought they heard the drum like sound of Invisible Rail. Local people are familiar with the bird that makes the sound, and know it as *kakata*, describing it as having a black body with red bill and legs, corresponding to Invisible Rail. Further surveys in December of the Kao and Lalobata areas of Halmahera again resulted in the same bird being heard. More surveys will be made this year.

INDIA

Narmada threatens biodiversity

A report produced by the Wildlife Institute of India for the Narmada Valley Development Authority warns of severe effects on the local flora and fauna that will be brought about by flooding after the building of two of Narmada's 165 large and medium-sized dams. Together the Narmada Sagar and

Omkareshwar Dams will flood 100,000 ha of forest and agricultural land and displace 160,000 people.

The Narmada Sagar inundation area was found to contain 40,000 ha of prime wildlife habitat supporting 369 plant, 30 mammal and 209 bird species. The forests around the dam contain endangered species such as Tiger *Panthera tigris*, Leopard *P. pardus* and Sloth Bear *Melursus ursinus*, whilst the river supports four species of freshwater turtle, one otter *Lutra* sp. and Mugger Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*. The report highlights Fishing Cat *Felis planiceps* as being at particular risk. It is found only on the Kitti Islands, an area that will be totally submerged, potentially leading to the cat's local extinction. Of the 217 plant species found in the Omkareshwar inundation zone, 60% were found to have a limited distribution.

Further afield the study also reveals that the project will also threaten the endangered Indian Wild Ass *Equus onager khur* of the Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. The network of canals proposed as part of the dams will disrupt the Little Rann of Kutch's saltflat ecosystem, bringing abnormally high levels of soil moisture and destroying the vegetation around the little raised islands or *bets*, the ass's primary grazing and breeding areas.

Meanwhile, the Indian Supreme Court has threatened to order a halt to construction of the Sadar Sarovar Dam unless the Indian government responds to detailed criticisms of the dam and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh also threatened to veto further

construction unless thousands of people whose land is threatened by submergence in next year's monsoon were resettled by January 1995 (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 16 and 19).

Panna National Park joins Project Tiger

Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh, is the latest Indian protected area to be included as part of Project Tiger, bringing the total number under the scheme to 17. The 900 km² park is coming under increasing threat from overgrazing, with the villages inside the park supporting 7,000 cattle, and another 40,000-50,000 cattle having been driven into the park during the last monsoon. Project Tiger is apparently intending to forcibly close the villages within the park and employ game wardens to control the grazing. Three villages have already been forcibly closed with families being paid 50,000-75,000 rupees compensation. The rest of the villagers are planned to be evicted within the next five to six years.

However, whether this will help the Tigers *Panthera tigris* in the long term is debatable. Officially the population of Tigers within the park is 23, but local conservationists estimate that there may be only 15. Nationally Project Tiger is now coming under growing criticism and is losing credibility. It is widely acknowledged that the project's claimed population estimate of 4,300 Tigers left in India is a gross exaggeration and the true figure maybe nearer 2,500.

Quarrying stopped in Sariska National Park

After three years of campaigning by Indian environmentalists the Indian Supreme Court has finally ruled in their favour and has shut down the 400 quarries operating in Sariska National Park, Rajasthan (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20).

However, all is still not secure, as the quarry owners are currently taking the issue back to court and in addition a further threat to the area is a proposal by the Indian government to reduce the protected forest area from 1,145 to 866 km².

Indian Red Data Book

The Zoological Survey of India has published the first Indian Red Data Book. It lists as critically endangered eight bird species: Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus*, Hooded *Grus monacha* and Black-necked Crane *G. nigricollis*, Hume's Pheasant *Syrnaticus humiae*, Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personata*, Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi*, Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* and Forest Owlet *Athene blewitti*.



Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* by Richard Grimmett

JAPAN

The last Crested Ibis in Japan dies

Midori, the last surviving Crested Ibis *Nipponia nippon* in Japan, has died at the Sado Island Conservation Centre; he was thought to be 26 years old. But he may well have left a legacy, as Fengfeng the female Crested Ibis flown to Japan from Beijing Zoo (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20), was successfully mated with Midori and has laid five eggs which are being artificially incubated. The fear is, however, that owing to Midori's age the eggs may be infertile. Following Midori's death there are now reported to be just 48 surviving Crested Ibis in the world.

NORTH KOREA

Tumen Project cancelled

Having spent three years and US\$3.5 million, UNDP has abandoned its Tumen River Area Development Programme. The project proposed to develop a US\$30 billion industrial and processing zone at the mouth of the Tumen River, including a new port city for a million residents. This, it was claimed, would bind together North-East Asia and become a sub-Siberian Hong Kong. It has failed due to a lack of cooperation between the three countries involved – North Korea, China and Russia – and an apparent reluctance on the part of foreign investors. Although one of the biggest delta regions in North-East Asia the area is environmentally almost unknown. Apparently one of Moscow's objections to the

scheme was that industrial pollution would threaten the country's only underwater nature preserve, off the coast near the town of Zarubino.

MALAYSIA

MNS requests conservation of Belum

Following the success of their two-year expedition to Ulu Belum, Perak (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 19), the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) are calling for 200,000 ha of the forest to be conserved. Their submission to the Perak state government includes recommendations for ecotourism, sustainable logging and forest management, and requests that the area be designated a state park. The area is of great conservation importance yet the northern part of the forest is already under logging concessions. The Perak state government is considering the proposal.

Kinabatangan to become state park

The Chief Minister of Sabah has announced that the state intends to designate 30,000 ha of the Lower Kinabatangan river basin as a protected area. This will be Sabah's third after Tabin and Kulamba near Sandakan. The Kinabatangan is Sabah's largest and most important wetland, especially for species such as Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*. The new sanctuary will include the current Sungai Menanggul Conservation Area. Also at the same time the minister announced that a further six areas will be designated as state parks, including several islands around Semporna.

NEPAL

Kosi Tappu - A wildlife reserve in decline

The Kosi Tappu Wildlife Reserve encompasses 175 km² along the banks of the Sapta-Kosi river system in south-east Nepal. It is probably one of the best sites in the world for the globally threatened Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis* and is important for many migrant birds. It is also the only locality in Nepal where wild Water Buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* survive and the endangered Gharial *Gavialis gangeticus* occurs. Unfortunately in its present state 'wildlife reserve' seems an inappropriate title for Kosi Tappu.

The main threat to the reserve is habitat degradation owing to illegal overgrazing by cattle and domestic buffalo. According to reserve authorities the wild Water Buffalo population has dwindled to about 50, as a result of cattle encroachment destroying the natural habitat and transmitting disease. Interbreeding with domestic buffalo is also a problem at Kosi and it is not known if any genetically pure wild Water Buffalo now remain.

A recent article by R. Ghimire in the *Kathmandu Post* (16 March 1995) highlighted the problems at Kosi Tappu. 'A hide and seek game goes on between the reserve authorities and the graziers. The owners of domestic cattle have not removed their cattle despite repeated request[s] of the reserve authorities.' From first-hand experience the problem of illegal grazing is very prominent and the reserve guards turn a blind eye

to it. The reserve occasionally fines the graziers but this is not sufficient to discourage them from returning. One grazer was reportedly fined over 200,000 Nepali Rupees (N Rp) for letting his animals stray into the reserve for the last twenty years. However, raising cattle and buffalo in the reserve is still profitable as he annually sells 40 calves for 8,000 N Rp each.

The problem is compounded by the fact that insufficient alternative grazing exists outside the reserve to support the estimated 5,000 cattle and 3,000 domestic buffalo currently within it. Graziers have demanded that the government should either buy their cattle or sell them grazing rights to Kosi Tappu. Both options have been rejected.

A further threat highlighted in an earlier article in the *Kathmandu Post* (February 1995), is chemical fishing, which has been reported to occur in some tributaries entering the Sapta-Kosi. As well as being devastating to wildlife in these stretches, poison residues presumably enter the main river system and must have serious long-term detrimental implications not only for wildlife but also people reliant on the river. Chemical fishing is thought to be a factor contributing to the decline in waterbird populations at Kosi but the scale of this problem is not known. Urgent efforts should be made by the Nepali authorities to halt this practice, as much as a matter of human welfare as of ecological common sense.

R. Ghimire wrote that the 'situation in the reserve shows that time has come for the

authorities to select whether the Kosi Tappu should be ceded to traditional graziers or should it continue as a reserve'. The animosity between the graziers and the authorities will only continue to grow if attempts to find a solution are not made soon. If no solutions or compromises are forthcoming it will inevitably be the wildlife that loses out.

Contributed by Dave Showler.

Arun under World Bank review

An internal inspection panel has forced the World Bank to put its investment in the Arun III hydroelectric project in eastern Nepal under a full review. The inspection panel, reviewing the dam at the request of Nepali NGOs, found 'clearcut problems' over compliance with Bank policies on 'information disclosure, indigenous people, environmental and social impacts and involuntary resettlement'. They also declared that alternatives to Arun III had not been properly assessed. It is the 122 km access road rather than the scheme itself that Nepali NGOs claim is likely to have the most severe environmental and social impacts, as it will provide access into an area that is wholly intact, biologically and culturally (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20).

PAKISTAN

Houbara hunting legalised

The Pakistani government has delisted the Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* from its list of protected species,

thereby legalising its hunting. The reason is apparently due to the interest in Houbara hunting from wealthy Arab falconers from the Gulf states. It is alleged that these falconers lavish on Pakistani officials large sums of money and expensive gifts, such as four-wheel drive vehicles and trips to the Gulf. Although hunting of Houbara has been illegal for many years, it has been revealed that a limited number of special hunting permits were issued every year to a select group of royal Gulf falconers - in the interests of 'special and cordial' relations between Pakistan and the Gulf countries.



Houbara Bustard Chlamydotis undulata by Richard Grimmett

SINGAPORE

Senoko doomed

The Singapore Ministry of National Development (MND), has rejected an appeal signed by 25,000 Singaporeans to conserve 70 ha of Senoko as a nature park (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20). The campaign to conserve Senoko proposed a compromise conservation area of 70 ha, 40% of the site, instead of the whole 168 ha. However, the government has earmarked the area for development and claims that even a 70 ha nature park is not possible as it will

result in the loss of 6,000 flats and 20 ha of industry.

Lim Hng Kiang, the Acting National Development Minister, said 'We cannot be preserving so many areas for birds...If we keep 70 ha for the birds, where do we build the houses?' And a spokesman for the MND claimed 'Contrary to popular belief, the birds at Senoko are not unique to the area. Most of the species are found elsewhere in Singapore, such as Sungei Buloh and Khatib Bongsu, both of which are ecologically similar.'

Fieldwork by members of the Nature Society (Singapore), has nevertheless revealed Senoko to be the most ornithologically diverse site in the country, supporting 20 locally endangered species, including the White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum* and the globally threatened Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*.

THAILAND

GEF funds for Huai Kha Khaeng

US\$80 million is being invested over the next five years by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank in four forest blocks on the Thai-Burma (Myanmar) border. This includes the 6,000 km² twin forest block of Huai Kha Khaeng and Thung Yai Naresuan Wildlife Sanctuaries, mainland South-East Asia's biggest wildlife conservation area. The area is under great threat from illegal logging and forest clearance. Buffer zones will be established to protect the core forest areas. However, the most controversial aspect

of the plan involves the potential resettlement of the 3,000 Karen tribespeople living 'illegally' within the state forest reserve of Thung Yai Naresuan. The World Bank has stated that it does not intend to recommend removal of any of the Karen tribespeople, but local NGOs fear the Thai government has other ideas.

VIETNAM

Yet another new mammal found

A third new species of ungulate has been discovered in the forests of Vietnam (see *Around the Orient*, Bull. OBC 20). The species was described after an unfamiliar set of long twisted horns were discovered in a market. Eight horns from six animals have now been located, but as yet no live animals have been seen. Despite this, on the basis of the horns alone, the animal, now known as *Pseudonovibos spiralis*, has been assigned to a totally new genus. It is believed to inhabit the Ban Me Thout, Dac Lac and Kon Tum districts of Vietnam and also north-western Cambodia. It is known locally in Vietnam as *linh duong* 'mountain goat' and in Cambodia as 'jungle sheep'.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

BBC Wildlife, BirdLife International Network News, The Dawn (Pakistan), The Ecologist, Far Eastern Economic Review, Lim Kim Seng, The Guardian, Nature, New Straits Times, Panascope, Star (Kuala Lumpur), Straits Times, Sunday Times (Singapore), Time, The Times, WWF Hong Kong.

A survey of birds in Qingshuihe District, Inner Mongolia, China

The authors report on a detailed survey in an area that has suffered intense environmental degradation. Encouragingly, afforestation and a general improvement in the habitat quality of the area has helped several bird species make marked recoveries.

From August 1988 to August 1991, we carried out a bird survey in the Qingshuihe district, situated 80 km away from Huhhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia. With an area of more than 6,200 km² it is bordered to the south by the Great Wall, and to the west by the Huanghe River. The district, with its undulating hills, has an average elevation between 1,400 and 1,700 m, the highest point reaching 2,100 m. There are two main rivers, the Qingshuihe and the Hunhe, which both empty into the Huanghe. The lowest temperature is -28°C in January and the highest, in July, is 36°C, while the average annual rainfall is 40 cm.

The total area of trees and bushes in the district is c. 158,000 ha, the main species being poplar, willow, elm, fruit trees and sallow thorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*. Arable land covers c. 114,800 ha, the main crops being millet, broomcorn millet, pea, wheat and potato. In the rest of the area, which consists mainly of gullies or sloping land, the dominant plants are *Stipa bungeana*, *Lespedeza davurica* and *Artemisia giraldii*.

The survey showed that the district, with a variety of habitats and little human activity, supported a large and diverse bird population. As a result, there are more birds in terms of species and number: of the 108 species recorded in the district, 26 are resident breeders, 36 are summer breeders, 41 are migrants, and five are winter visitors (Appendix).

Highlights of the survey were a **Yellow-bellied Tit** *Parus venustulus*, which is a new record for Inner Mongolia, and a **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* nest found on a cliff on 24 April 1989. The nest, 1.2 m in diameter, was about 10 m above the ground and was made of dry twigs and branches; the two adults were seen foraging beside a mountain stream.

Birds of prey, such as **Upland Buzzard** *Buteo hemilasius*, **Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*, **Besra** *Accipiter virgatus*, **Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*,

Common Kestrel *F. tinnunculus* and **Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo* can be found in relatively large numbers. This is because there is a large rodent population, and the local people leave the birds of prey alone, recognising that they have helped to control the number of rodents, which otherwise might become a pest.

On the northern slopes of the hills is secondary forest with birch dominant, and a dense understorey of sallow thorn bushes, making an excellent habitat for birds. Attracted to sallow thorns when they are fruiting are many **Dark-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis*, **Dusky Thrush** *T. naumanui*, **Pale Thrush** *T. pallidus*, **Scaly Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*, **Daurian Redstart** *Phoenicurus auroreus*, **Orange-flanked Bush-Robin** *Tarsiger cyanurus* and **Great Tit** *Parus major*. The southern slopes of the hills are scattered with bushes, shrubs and grass *Stipa bungeana*. Common birds there are **Chukar** *Alectoris chukar*, **Daurian Partridge** *Perdix dauurica*, **Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus mouedula*, and **Red-billed Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. In winter and spring, flocks of **Red-billed Choughs** are attracted to the herds of cattle, feeding on the undigested fodder and grass seeds in the cow dung.

The wetlands of Qingshuihe include rivers, reservoirs and small, shallow (c. 0.4-1.0 m) freshwater lakes, with reeds and cattails. In winter all are frozen, so there are few waterbirds present, but during spring and autumn especially the Huanghe River and neighbouring lakes become an important stop-over site for migratory species such as **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*, **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*, **Purple Heron** *A. purpurea*, **Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*, **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*, **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*, **Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*, **Common Coot** *Fulica atra*, **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*, **Common Black-headed Gull** *Larus*

ridibundus, **Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*, **White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* and **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*.

There are wide stretches of grassy marshland beside rivers and surrounding freshwater lakes supporting a rich feeding habitat for wading birds such as **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*, **Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*, **Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*, and **Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*, but also **American Pipit** *Anthus rubescens*, **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*, **Grey Wagtail** *M. cinerea* and **Citrine Wagtail** *M. citreola*, while **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*, **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* and **Black-winged Stilt** breed.

The number of **Black-billed Magpies** *Pica pica* has increased considerably in recent years and this is now the dominant species in residential areas and surrounding farmland. But happily it is not only magpie populations that have benefited, as a number of other birds have increased in Qingshuihe in recent years. This has much to do with the expansion of woodland cover and the general recovery of vegetation in the last 15 years. According to data from Qingshuihe Forestry Bureau, there were only 10,793 ha of woodland in the district at the end of 1977, only 4% of the total area. Sheep kept by local people relied on grass reaped from the gullies and sloping land for winter fodder, which was usually torn up by the roots, resulting in less and less grass there. Desertification and soil erosion became very serious and Qingshuihe was one of the worst affected districts in the upper and middle reaches of the Huanghe River. Since 1978, a large-scale afforestation programme has been in progress and woodland covered 60,424 ha or 20.6% of the total area by the end of 1991. Many fruit trees were planted on the banks of the Qingshuihe, the Hunhe and the Huanghe, providing villages with their own orchards. Because there has also been an increase in crop production to feed livestock, people no longer need to reap grass from the valleys, so the natural vegetation has improved greatly. The increase of forest and the recovery of vegetation has provided the birds with better habitat, and birds which were rarely seen before such as **Great Tit**, **Grey-capped Greenfinch** *Carduelis sinica*, **White-cheeked Starling** *Sturnus cineraceus*, **Grey-faced Woodpecker** *Picus canus*, **Plain Laughingthrush** *Garrulax davidi*, and **White-browed Chinese Warbler** *Rhopophilus pekinensis*, are now common.

Yang Guisheng and **Xing Lianlian** Department of Biology, University of Inner Mongolia, Huhhot 010021, China.

Appendix I

Bird species recorded in the Qingshuihe District. Key: R = resident; S = summer; M = migrant; W = winter.

CHUKAR <i>Alectoris chukar</i>	R
DAURIAN PARTRIDGE <i>Perdix dauurica</i>	R
COMMON PHEASANT <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	R
BEAN GOOSE <i>Anser fabalis</i>	M
RUDDY SHELDUCK <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	S
COMMON TEAL <i>Anas crecca</i>	M
COMMON GOLDENEYE <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	M
EURASIAN WRYNECK <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	S
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	R
GREY-FACED WOODPECKER <i>Picus canus</i>	R
EURASIAN HOOPOE <i>Upupa epops</i>	S
COMMON KINGFISHER <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	S
COMMON CUCKOO <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	S
EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL <i>Bubo bubo</i>	R
LITTLE OWL <i>Athene noctua</i>	R
HILL PIGEON <i>Columba rupestris</i>	R
EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	R
COMMON COOT <i>Fulica atra</i>	S
PINTAIL SNIPE <i>Gallinago stenura</i>	M
WOOD SANDPIPER <i>Tringa glareola</i>	M
LONG-TOED STINT <i>Calidris subminuta</i>	M
BLACK-WINGED STILT <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	S
PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	M
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	S
ORIENTAL PLOVER <i>Charadrius veredus</i>	M
NORTHERN LAPWING <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	S
ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE <i>Glareola maldivarum</i>	S
COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	M
COMMON TERN <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	S
LITTLE TERN <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	S
WHISKERED TERN <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	M
WHITE-WINGED TERN <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	M
BLACK-EARED KITE <i>Milvus lineatus</i>	S
BESRA <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>	M
UPLAND BUZZARD <i>Buteo hemilasius</i>	R
COMMON BUZZARD <i>Buteo buteo</i>	M
COMMON KESTREL <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	R
AMUR FALCON <i>Falco amurensis</i>	S
LITTLE GREBE <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	S
GREAT CRESTED GREBE <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	S
GREY HERON <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	M
PURPLE HERON <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	M
YELLOW BITTERN <i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	S
BLACK STORK <i>Ciconia nigra</i>	S
BROWN SHRIKE <i>Lanius cristatus</i>	S
CHINESE GREY SHRIKE <i>Lanius sphenocercus</i>	S
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE <i>Pica pica</i>	S
RED-BILLED CHOUGH <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	R
EURASIAN JACKDAW <i>Corvus monedula</i>	R
BOHEMIAN WAXWING <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	W
RUFIOUS-TAILED ROCK-THRUSH <i>Monticola saxatilis</i>	S

SCALY THRUSH <i>Zoothera dauma</i>	M	HUME'S LARK <i>Calandrella acutirostris</i>	R
PALE THRUSH <i>Turdus pallidus</i>	M	ASIAN SHORT-TOED LARK <i>Calandrella cheleensis</i>	R
DARK-THROATED THRUSH <i>Turdus ruficollis</i>	M	CRESTED LARK <i>Galerida cristata</i>	R
DUSKY THRUSH <i>Turdus naumanni</i>	M	EURASIAN TREE SPARROW <i>Passer montanus</i>	R
ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER <i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	M	WHITE WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla alba</i>	S
RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER <i>Ficedula parva</i>	M	CITRINE WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla citreola</i>	S
SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT <i>Luscinia calliope</i>	M	YELLOW WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla flava</i>	M
ORANGE-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN <i>Tarsiger cyanurus</i>	M	GREY WAGTAIL <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	S
DAURIAN REDSTART <i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>	S	RICHARD'S PIPIT <i>Anthus richardi</i>	S
WHITE-WINGED REDSTART <i>Phoenicurus erythrogaster</i>	W	TREE PIPIT <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	M
SIBERIAN STONECHAT <i>Saxicola maura</i>	M	OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	S
NORTHERN WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	M	AMERICAN PIPIT <i>Anthus rubescens</i>	M
ISABELLINE WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	M	SIBERIAN ACCENTOR <i>Prunella montanella</i>	W
WHITE-CHEEKED STARLING <i>Sturnus cineraceus</i>	S	BRAMBLING <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	M
WILLOW TIT <i>Parus montanus</i>	R	GREY-CAPPED GREENFINCH <i>Carduelis sinica</i>	S
COAL TIT <i>Parus ater</i>	R	LONG-TAILED ROSEFINCH <i>Uragus sibiricus</i>	W
YELLOW-BELLIED TIT <i>Parus venustus</i>	S	COMMON ROSEFINCH <i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	S
GREAT TIT <i>Parus major</i>	R	PALLAS'S ROSEFINCH <i>Carpodacus roseus</i>	W
LONG-TAILED TIT <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	R	HAWFINCH <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	M
SAND MARTIN <i>Riparia riparia</i>	S	GODLEWSKI'S BUNTING <i>Emberiza godlewskii</i>	R
BARN SWALLOW <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	S	MEADOW BUNTING <i>Emberiza cioides</i>	R
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW <i>Hirundo daurica</i>	S	TRISTRAM'S BUNTING <i>Emberiza tristrami</i>	M
WHITE-BROWED CHINESE WARBLER <i>Rhopophilus pekinensis</i>	R	LITTLE BUNTING <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	M
GREAT REED-WARBLER <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	S	RUSTIC BUNTING <i>Emberiza rustica</i>	M
DUSKY WARBLER <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	M	YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING <i>Emberiza aureola</i>	M
LEMON-RUMPED WARBLER <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	M	PALLAS'S BUNTING <i>Emberiza pallasi</i>	M
INORNATE WARBLER <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	M	REED BUNTING <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	M
PLAIN LAUGHINGTHRUSH <i>Garrulax davidi</i>	R	OCHRE-RUMPED BUNTING <i>Emberiza yessoensis</i>	M



FLYING COLOURS PHOTOGRAPHY

Documentation of Oriental birds in their natural habitat since 1986. Our speciality is photographs and texts on birds and bird-watching locations in South-East Asia.

Main contributor to *A photographic guide to the birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore*, Sun Tree Publishing, 1993.

Described in *OBC Bulletin* 18 "... simply the best introduction and background to birds and birding in the region yet produced".

For details please contact
MORTEN STRANGE
Engskovvej 50, 8541 Skodstrup, Denmark
Tel/Fax: (45) 8699 3242/(45) 8699 3277

Forest loss, extinctions and last hope for birds on Cebu

The central Philippine island of Cebu has lost virtually all of its forest, and the forest birds have declined in parallel. Yet, thanks to a new conservation initiative, there may be hope for the future.

The island of Cebu, in the central Philippines, retains at most 15 km² of dipterocarp forest²¹, 0.3% of its original forest cover. This almost complete deforestation has apparently led to the extinction of many of the bird species formerly resident on the island. This article provides an up-to-date summary of the conservation status of Cebu's forest birds.

Cebu is known to have two endemic species. The **Black Shama** *Copsychus cebuensis* is an allospecies of the **White-vented Shama** *C. niger* of Palawan, and is also closely related to the **Oriental Magpie-Robin** *C. saularis*¹⁹. Recent studies by Magsalay¹² indicate that the species can survive in bamboo thickets, although even the most degraded secondary habitats are now scarce on Cebu. Collar *et al.*⁴ list the species as Endangered due to the rapid destruction of its remaining habitat for housing and agricultural development.

The **Cebu Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum quadricolor* is an allospecies of the **Bicolored Flowerpecker** *D. bicolor*, which is found throughout most of the rest of the Philippines¹⁹. In 1906, McGregor¹⁴ found that 'this handsome species is rare and strictly confined to forest', while Rabor¹⁶ failed to record it during his work on the island in the early 1950s and speculated that it was extinct. The

flowerpecker's supposed demise was subsequently widely reported in both the ornithological^{20,7} and the ecological²³ literature.

Timmins²² first reported refinding the **Cebu Flowerpecker** in a tiny (2 km²) patch of forest at Tabunan. His rediscovery was confirmed by Dutson⁸ and has now been fitted back into both the ornithological⁹ and ecological¹¹ contexts. However, Collar *et al.*⁴ list the **Cebu Flowerpecker** as Critically Endangered. In addition to habitat destruction, competition with the common **Red-keeled Flowerpecker** *D. australe* may have hastened the species's decline^{4,7}.

Historically, Cebu also had 12 endemic subspecies. The **Amethyst Brown-Dove** *Phapitreron amethystina frontalis* has not been recorded since 1892³. **White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis cebuensis* (which was only recently described¹⁰), **Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina striata cebuensis*, **Blackish Cuckoo-shrike** *C. coerulescens altera*, **Streak-breasted Bulbul** *Ixos siquijorensis monticola* and **Philippine Oriole** *Oriolus steerii assimilis* were last recorded by McGregor¹⁴, while **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidus* was last recorded in 1920² (not 1910¹⁷). Dutson *et al.*⁸ consider all seven of these races to be extinct.



Across valley from Tabanan. Reforested slopes is the typical view on Cebu (Photo: M. Heath).



Tabanan forest This small remnant patch is surrounded by cultivation. The vegetation on the background hillside is in fact low-lying scrub with no trees (Photo: M. Heath).

The status of the Cebu **Colasisi** *Loriculus philippensis chrysonotus* is uncertain. Birds of this species survive at Tabunan, with a maximum of five birds seen on 28 July 1994. However, the subspecific identity of these individuals is uncertain. Various subspecies of Colasisi are commonly kept in captivity throughout the Philippines and birds of the Negros subspecies *L. p. regulus* were recorded in a feral state on Cebu in the 1950s¹⁶. Birds seen at close range at Tabunan have had some yellow on the cap and nape, suggestive of the Cebu subspecies, but other plumage features have diverged from pure *chrysonotus*. Observers are urged to take detailed notes on any Colasisi seen perched at close range.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti everetti* was considered extinct by Rabor¹⁶, but has since been rediscovered⁷. **Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala cebuensis*, **Elegant Tit** *Parus elegans visayanus* and **White-vented Whistler** *Pachycephala homeyeri major* (the last was only recently recognised as endemic to Cebu⁷), were shown to be extant by both Rabor¹⁶ and Dutson *et al.*⁸. However, all five of these races are now undoubtedly seriously threatened. In a recent survey of the island, Magsalay¹³ found only **Everett's White-eye** and **Elegant Tit** away from Tabunan. We give the status of Cebu's endemic taxa in Table 1.

Table 2 shows the current status of the 79 resident forest (and forest edge) bird species known from Cebu⁷. A total of 39 of these, most of which are dependent on deep forest and have not been recorded in recent years are extinct. This represents a half of Cebu's recorded forest avifauna. Even birds of scrub habitats such as **Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis* and **Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* may well be extinct on the island.



Signs have been placed around the Tabanan forest (Photo: M. Heath).



Non-passerine species have been hit more seriously than passerines, with 26/48 non-passerines (54%) presumed extinct as opposed to 13/31 passerines (42%). This is especially true for sensitive groups such as pigeons (7/11 = 64% extinct) and raptors (3/5 = 60% extinct). Of the Philippine endemic species which once occurred on Cebu, 18/38 (47%) are feared extinct on the island. Among the species which Cebu has lost are three globally threatened species⁴ (**Philippine Cockatoo** *Cacatua haematuropygia*, **Streak-breasted Bulbul** *Ixos siquijorensis* and **Philippine Leafbird** *Chloropsis flavipennis*) and four near-threatened (**Tabon Scrubfowl** *Megapodius cumingii*, **Indigo-banded Kingfisher** *Alcedo cyanopecta*, **Blackish Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina coerulescens* and **Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*). In addition, single further threatened (**Rufous-lored Kingfisher** *Todiramphus winchelli*) and near-threatened (**Blue-crowned Racquet-tail** *Prioniturus discurus*) species⁴ also survive on the island, although both are very close to local extinction.

The deforestation of Cebu has therefore already caused a mass extinction of birds on the island. The forest species which remain are all also very close to extinction, and even those species which can survive in scrub are under considerable pressure. The Philippine Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Foundation Inc. (PWCF) has initiated a project for the conservation of birds on Cebu, through extensive surveys and environmental education^{12,13}. However, the group is very short of resources. Visiting birders should support the PWCF by announcing their visit in advance and liaising on Cebu with PM (see below for address), who would be grateful for any donations.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to Des Allen, Peter Davidson and Adrian Long for providing records and to Edward Dickinson for reviewing the tables. TB thanks Professor Stuart Pimm for a travel grant to visit the Philippines in 1994. Above all, many thanks go to the other members of the PWCF.

References

1. Allen, D. (1994) Birds seen on a visit to the Philippines Feb-March 1994. Unpublished.

2. Baud, F. J. (1976) Oiseaux des Philippines de la collection W. Parsons. I. Cebu, Samar, Romblon, Tablas et Sibuyan. *Revue Suisse Zool.* 83: 497-513.

3. Bourns, F. S. and Worcester, D. C. (1894) Preliminary notes on the birds and mammals collected on the Menage Scientific Expedition to the Philippine Islands. *Occas. Pap. Minnesota Acad. Nat. Sci.* 1: 1-64.

4. Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield, A. J. (1994) *Birds to watch 2: the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 4).

5. Curio, E. (1993) Report on bird species recorded during a (preliminary) Philippines conservation expedition, 3 July - 26 August 1993. Unpublished.

6. DENR (1992) *Profile of national parks in the Philippines*. Manila, Philippines: Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.

7. Dickinson, E. C., Kennedy, R. S. and Parkes, K. C. (1991) *The birds of the Philippines*. Tring, U.K.: British Ornithologists' Union (Check-list no. 12).

8. Dutson, G. (1993) Rediscovery of the Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor* reconfirmed. *OBC Bull.* 17: 14.

9. Dutson, G. C. L., Magsalay, P. M. and Timmins, R. J. (1993) The rediscovery of the Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor*, with notes on other forest birds on Cebu, Philippines. *Bird Conserv. Internatn.* 3: 235-243.

10. Kennedy, R. S. (1987) New subspecies of *Dryocopus javensis* (Aves: Picidae) and *Ficedula hyperythra* (Aves: Muscicapidae) from the Philippines. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington* 100: 40-43.

11. Magsalay, P., Brooks, T., Dutson, G. and Timmins, R. (1995) Extinction and conservation on Cebu. *Nature* 373: 294.

12. Magsalay, P. (1993) Preliminary report on the survey of endemic birds of Cebu. Unpublished.

13. Magsalay, P. (1994) Survey of endemic birds in Cebu. *OBC Bull.* 20: 14.

14. McGregor, R. C. (1907) Notes on birds collected in Cebu. *Philippines J. Sci.* 2: 298-309.

15. Meyer de Schauensee, R. and duPont, J. E. (1962) Birds from the Philippine Islands. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia* 114: 149-173.

16. Rabor, D. S. (1959) The impact of deforestation on birds of Cebu, Philippines, with new records for that island. *Auk* 76: 37-43.

17. Richardson, D. M. and Baker, A. J. (1981) Last record of the Cebu Island subspecies of the Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidus*: *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 101: 275-276.

18. Sargeant, D. (1992) The Philippines. Unpublished.

19. Sibley, C. G. and Monroe, B. L., Jr. (1990) *Distribution and taxonomy of the birds of the world*. New Haven, U.S.A.: Yale University Press.

20. Sibley, C. G. and Monroe, B. L., Jr. (1993) *A supplement to distribution and taxonomy of the birds of the world*. New Haven, U.S.A.: Yale University Press.

21. SSC (1988) *Mapping the natural conditions of the Philippines*. Final Report. Solna, Sweden: Swedish Space Corporation.

22. Timmins, R. (1992) Is the Cebu Flowerpecker extinct? *OBC Bull.* 15: 10-11.

23. Wilson, E. O. (1992) *The diversity of life*. Cambridge, U.S.A.: Harvard University Press.

Thomas Brooks, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, M313 Walters Life Sciences Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37996-0810 U.S.A.

Perla Magsalay, Philippine Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Foundation Inc., c/o Cebu Zoo, Capitol Hills, Cebu City 6000, Philippines.

Guy Dutson, The Vet Surgery, Moon Lane, Modbury, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0QW U.K.

Richard Allen, 3 Dudley Road, Fingringhoe, Essex CO5 7DS, U.K.

Table 1. The conservation status of Cebu's endemic bird taxa

Table 2a. Extinct resident forest birds of Cebu

All species listed by Dickinson *et al.*⁷ as Cebu residents, unrecorded since Rabor¹⁶ (1950s) and considered to be forest species by the authors are listed. Nomenclature and systematic order follow Dickinson *et al.*⁷ except for those species marked * which are treated as separate species following Sibley and Monroe^{19,20}. Philippine endemics are emboldened.

Table 2b. Extant resident forest birds of Cebu

As Table 2a above, but species which have been recorded since 1992.

Table 1.

Species	Considered extinct: in 1959	in 1994
AMETHYST BROWN-DOVE <i>Phapitreron amethystina frontalis</i>	X	X
COLASISI <i>Loriculus philippensis chrysonotus</i>	X	?
COPPERSMITH BARBET <i>Megalaima haemacephala cebuensis</i>		
WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER <i>Dryocopus javensis cebuensis</i>	X	X
BAR-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE <i>Coracina striata cebuensis</i>	X	X
BLACKISH CUCKOO-SHRIKE <i>Coracina coerulescens altera</i>	X	X
STREAK-BREASTED BULBUL <i>Ixos siquijorensis monticola</i>	X	X
BLACK SHAMA <i>Copsychus cebuensis</i>		
PHILIPPINE ORIOLE <i>Oriolus steerii assimilis</i>	X	X
ELEGANT TIT <i>Parus elegans visayanus</i>		
WHITE-VENTED WHISTLER <i>Pachycephala homeyeri major</i>		
CEBU FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum quadricolor</i>	X	
ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidus</i>	X	X
EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE <i>Zosterops everetti everetti</i>	X	

Table 2a.

MALAYAN NIGHT-HERON <i>Gorsachius melanolophus</i>
ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD <i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>
BESRA <i>Accipiter virgatus</i>
PHILIPPINE FALCONET <i>Microhierax erythrogenys</i>
TABON SCRUBFOWL <i>Megapodius cumingii</i>
RED JUNGLEFOWL <i>Gallus gallus</i>
POMPADOUR GREEN-PIGEON <i>Treron pompadora</i>
PINK-NECKED GREEN-PIGEON <i>Treron vernans</i>
AMETHYST BROWN-DOVE <i>Phapitreron amethystina</i>
BLACK-CHINNED FRUIT-DOVE <i>Ptilinopus leclancheri</i>
PINK-BELLIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON <i>Ducula poliocephala</i>
GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON <i>Ducula aenea</i>
METALLIC PIGEON <i>Columba vitiensis</i>
PHILIPPINE COCKATOO <i>Cacatua haematuropygia</i>
VIOLET CUCKOO <i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>
COMMON KOEL <i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>
BROWN HAWK-OWL <i>Ninox scutulata</i>
PHILIPPINE HAWK-OWL <i>Ninox philippensis</i>
LESSER TREE-SWIFT <i>Hemiprogne comata</i>
PHILIPPINE SWIFTLET <i>Collocalia mearnsi</i>
PHILIPPINE NEEDLETAIL <i>Mearnsia picina</i>
INDIGO-BANDED KINGFISHER <i>Alcedo cyanopectus</i>
VARIABLE DWARF-KINGFISHER <i>Ceyx lepidus</i>
STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER <i>Halcyon capensis</i>
DOLLARBIRD <i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER <i>Dryocopus javensis</i>
BAR-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE <i>Coracina striata</i>
BLACKISH CUCKOO-SHRIKE <i>Coracina coerulescens</i>
PHILIPPINE LEAFBIRD <i>Chloropsis flavipennis</i>
STREAK-BREASTED BULBUL <i>Hypsipetes siquijorensis</i>
PHILIPPINE ORIOLE <i>Oriolus steerii</i>
SULPHUR-BILLED NUTHATCH <i>Sitta oenochlamys*</i>
LEMON-THROATED LEAF-WARBLER <i>Phylloscopus cebuensis</i>
PHILIPPINE TAILORBIRD <i>Orthotomus castaneiceps</i>
RUFIOUS PARADISE-FLYCATCHER <i>Terpsiphone cinnamomea</i>
PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD <i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>
STRIPED FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum aeruginosum</i>
ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
PYGMY FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum pygmaeum</i>

Table 2b.

BRAHMINY KITE <i>Haliastur indus</i>
PHILIPPINE SERPENT-EAGLE <i>Spilornis holospilus*</i>
WHITE-EARED BROWN-DOVE <i>Phapitreron leucotis</i>
YELLOW-BREASTED FRUIT-DOVE <i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>
PHILIPPINE CUCKOO-DOVE <i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>
COMMON EMERALD-DOVE <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
BLUE-CROWNED RACQUET-TAIL <i>Prioniturus discurus</i>
COLASISI <i>Loriculus philippensis</i>
HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO <i>Cuculus fugax</i>
PLAINTIVE CUCKOO <i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>
RUSTY-BREASTED CUCKOO <i>Cacomantis sepulcralis*</i>
PHILIPPINE COUCAL <i>Centropus viridis</i>
PHILIPPINE NIGHTJAR <i>Caprimulgus manillensis</i>
GREY SWIFTLET <i>Collocalia amelis*</i>
GLOSSY SWIFTLET <i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
PYGMY SWIFTLET <i>Collocalia troglodytes</i>
PURPLE NEEDLETAIL <i>Hirundapus celebensis</i>
RUFIOUS-LORED KINGFISHER <i>Halcyon winchelli</i>
COPPERSMITH BARBET <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
PHILIPPINE PYGMY WOODPECKER <i>Dendrocopus maculatus</i>
RED-BELLIED PITTA <i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>
HOODED PITTA <i>Pitta sordida</i>
PIED TRILLER <i>Lalage nigra</i>
PHILIPPINE BULBUL <i>Hypsipetes philippinus</i>
BALICASSIAO <i>Dicrurus balicassius</i>
BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE <i>Oriolus chinensis</i>
ELEGANT TIT <i>Parus elegans</i>
ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN <i>Copsychus saularis</i>
BLACK SHAMA <i>Copsychus cebuensis</i>
MANGROVE BLUE-FLYCATCHER <i>Cyornis rufigastra</i>
PIED FANTAIL <i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
BLACK-NAPED MONARCH <i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
WHITE-VENTED WHISTLER <i>Pachycephala homeyeri</i>
ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING <i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
COLETO <i>Sarcops calvus</i>
LOVELY SUNBIRD <i>Aethopyga shelleyi</i>
CRIMSON SUNBIRD <i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
CEBU FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum quadricolor</i>
RED-KEELED FLOWERPECKER <i>Dicaeum australe</i>
EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE <i>Zosterops everetti</i>

Siburan – key area for birds on Mindoro

Protected by the presence of a penal colony, this forest is the largest remnant of the lowland forests of Mindoro. It is the only known site for the beautiful Mindoro Bleeding-heart.

BirdLife International rate the island of Mindoro, in the central Philippines, as one of the world's twelve most critical 'Endemic Bird Areas' for the conservation of biodiversity⁷. The island, with an area of only 10,190 km², holds at least six endemic bird species. A survey by the Swedish Space Corporation in 1989, however, showed that only 871 km² (less than 10%) of the island's forest remained. Most of this is in the mountains. Furthermore, the last few years have undoubtedly seen continuing deforestation. All of Mindoro's endemic species are included in the most recent Red List of birds².

As is the case throughout the Philippines, deforestation has hit the island's commercially valuable lowland forests particularly heavily. In a recent survey of the conservation status of the birds of Mindoro⁵, we found only one sizeable patch of lowland forest remaining, at Siburan. This forest, half-way up the west coast of Mindoro and overlooked by the Mt Iglit-Baco National Park inland, has been protected by the establishment of a large penal colony. Access to the main Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (SPPF) is restricted, but birders can visit the smaller Siburan Sub-prison, situated on a river plain immediately adjacent to about 5,000 ha of largely undisturbed lowland forest³.

Two of Mindoro's endemics, **Mindoro Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula mindorensis* and **Mindoro Scops-Owl** *Otus mindorensis*, are montane species found only above 700 m⁴. The other species restricted to Mindoro, however, are lowland species, and all of them have been found at Siburan.

The rarest of these is **Mindoro Bleeding-heart** *Gallicolumba platenae*. Although this bird was shot regularly by the early collectors in the lowlands of eastern Mindoro, it appears to be dependent on closed-canopy forest below 300 m⁴. Birds have now been seen in the forest at Siburan on several

occasions. More often, birds are snared by prisoners. Siburan is the only area where this bird is known to survive, and there is no doubt that it is critically endangered.

Another extremely poorly known Mindoro endemic found at Siburan is **Black-hooded Coucal** *Centropus steerii*. Early collectors found it quite commonly up to 760 m, but it too appears to be dependent on old-growth forest⁴. *C. steerii* may also be displaced at forest edge by the similar **Philippine Coucal** *C. viridis*¹ (of which the Mindoro race *C. v. mindorensis* has not rufous but black wings, like *C. steerii*); our observations at Siburan, where *C. viridis* is common, would support this suggestion. *C. steerii* is found mainly in pairs or small groups, deep inside the forest at Siburan, where it stays fairly high in vine tangles and creepers. It is a rather shy, yet inquisitive bird, and has a distinctive call of three to five deep booming notes⁴.

The least rare of Mindoro's endemics is **Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum retrocinctum*. This species has a broad altitudinal range and, although it prefers closed-canopy forest, is found not uncommonly in secondary habitats. It seems to be the commonest flowerpecker at Siburan.

A recent taxonomic suggestion⁸ has divided the Tarictic Hornbill *Penelopides panini* into several species, resulting in another Mindoro endemic, the Mindoro Hornbill *P. mindorensis*. Although it probably occurs at low densities in mid-mountain forest elsewhere on Mindoro, the only recent records are from the south-west of the island, where it seems to be quite tolerant of forest fragmentation as long as some large fruiting trees remain⁴. It is fairly common and obvious in forest and forest edge at Siburan.

In total, 31 bird species endemic to the Philippines have been recorded at Siburan. This total includes rarely recorded species such as **Philippine Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus philippensis*,

Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula poliocephala*, **Philippine Cockatoo** *Cacatua haematropygia*, **Black-bibbed Cicadabird** *Coraciina mindanensis*, **Black-and-white Triller** *Lalage melanolenca* and **Green-backed Whistler** *Pachycephala albiventris*. The scarce near-endemic **Blue-naped Parrot** *Tanygnathus lucionensis* is quite common, and a **Tabon Scrubfowl** *Megapodius cumingii* snared by prisoners in August 1994 is the first recent record for Mindoro. A **Philippine Trogon** *Harpactes ardens* heard there in February 1995 is also the first Mindoro record. The **Slender-billed Crows** *Corvus enca* there are of the distinct race *C. e. pnsillus* of Mindoro and Palawan, which may be a full species⁵. Lake Lubao, bordering the forest, holds a good selection of waterbirds. The bird species known from Siburan are listed below.

An intriguing possibility is that Mindoro actually has a seventh endemic species. This is an owl, well known to local people who call it the *kiraw*. We first located this mysterious bird in forest patches near Malpalon, to the south of Sablayan, in September 1991⁴, and it has now been found regularly at Siburan. Recent fieldwork by Dr Robert Kennedy has revealed that the *kiraw* is in fact the Mindoro race of **Philippine Hawk-Owl** *Ninox philippensis mindorensis*. However, it is very divergent from the rest of the races of *N. philippensis*, showing differences in both call and plumage, and may well be a full species, **Mindoro Hawk-Owl** *N. mindorensis*. The owls are heard commonly throughout the night along the forest edge at Siburan and respond to playback.



Mindoro Hawk-Owl Ninox mindorensis.
(Photo: Pete Morris)

Mindoro also has an endemic species of ox, the small but reportedly ferocious **Tamaraw** *Bubalus mindorensis*. Although not yet recorded at Siburan, its last stronghold is in the Mt Iglit-Baco National Park, immediately inland from the site. This bovid is very seriously endangered by hunting and habitat destruction, and the captive-breeding programme established for its conservation appears to have been unsuccessful. It is now estimated that fewer than 100 individuals remain. The best chance of seeing the species would be to hike from Siburan up to Mt Iglit in the dry season (winter), and it was seen in this manner in December 1992.



View of Siburan
(Photo: Pete Morris)



Habitat close to where the above photograph of the Mindoro Hawk-Owl was taken
(Photo: Pete Morris)

The responsibility for forest protection in the Philippines lies with the governmental Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). In south-west Mindoro, the DENR has initiated a variety of reforestation projects, and an Integrated Social Forestry project is also running in the region³. These initiatives are supported by a successful grassroots non-governmental organisation, the Kalikasan Mindoro Foundation Inc. (KMFI). The KMFI is very interested in encouraging ecotourism to the island, and will be happy to help birders searching for Mindoro's endemics. In order to obtain access through the penal colony to Siburan it is helpful for the KMFI to write a letter of introduction. Mr Leonardo Gabutero should be contacted at the address below beforehand so that he can provide this. Mr Efraim Tejada of the KMFI knows the forest and birds of Siburan extremely well, and if he is available will happily accompany birders to the site.

The future of the forest at Siburan is not secure. There is minimal impact on the forest from the prisoners, who use the forest for the collection of firewood, rattan and bamboo, and for snaring birds. Far more serious is the threat posed by encroaching slash-and-burn cultivation (known as *kaingin*), both by local people and by the many refugees from the Mt Pinatubo disaster who have

been resettled in the area. The influence of the penal colony has so far kept such deforestation to a minimum, but the forest has no formal protection and is likely to come under increasing pressure in the future. Any outside interest shown in the birds of Siburan will provide greatly needed encouragement to conservation in the area and at the same time provide a unique opportunity to see at least four species found nowhere else in the world.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Dr Carlo Custodio, Jon Hornbuckle, Dr Robert Kennedy, Adrian Long, Ken Mitchell, Pete Morris and Joe Tobias for their comments on this note. In Manila, our thanks go to Tim Fisher and his family for their continued enthusiasm and support. Our fieldwork began during the Cambridge Philippines Rainforest Project 1991, and we owe a great deal of gratitude to the other team members of that project, Guy Anderson, Desiderio Asane, Tom Evans and Jing-Jing Toledo. The advisors and sponsors of the project are fully credited in our final report⁵. TB is grateful to Professor Stuart Pimm for obtaining funding for his return to the Philippines. On Mindoro, we are very grateful to all of the volunteers of the Kalikasan Mindoro Foundation Inc. We thank Mr Armando T. Mirandor at the

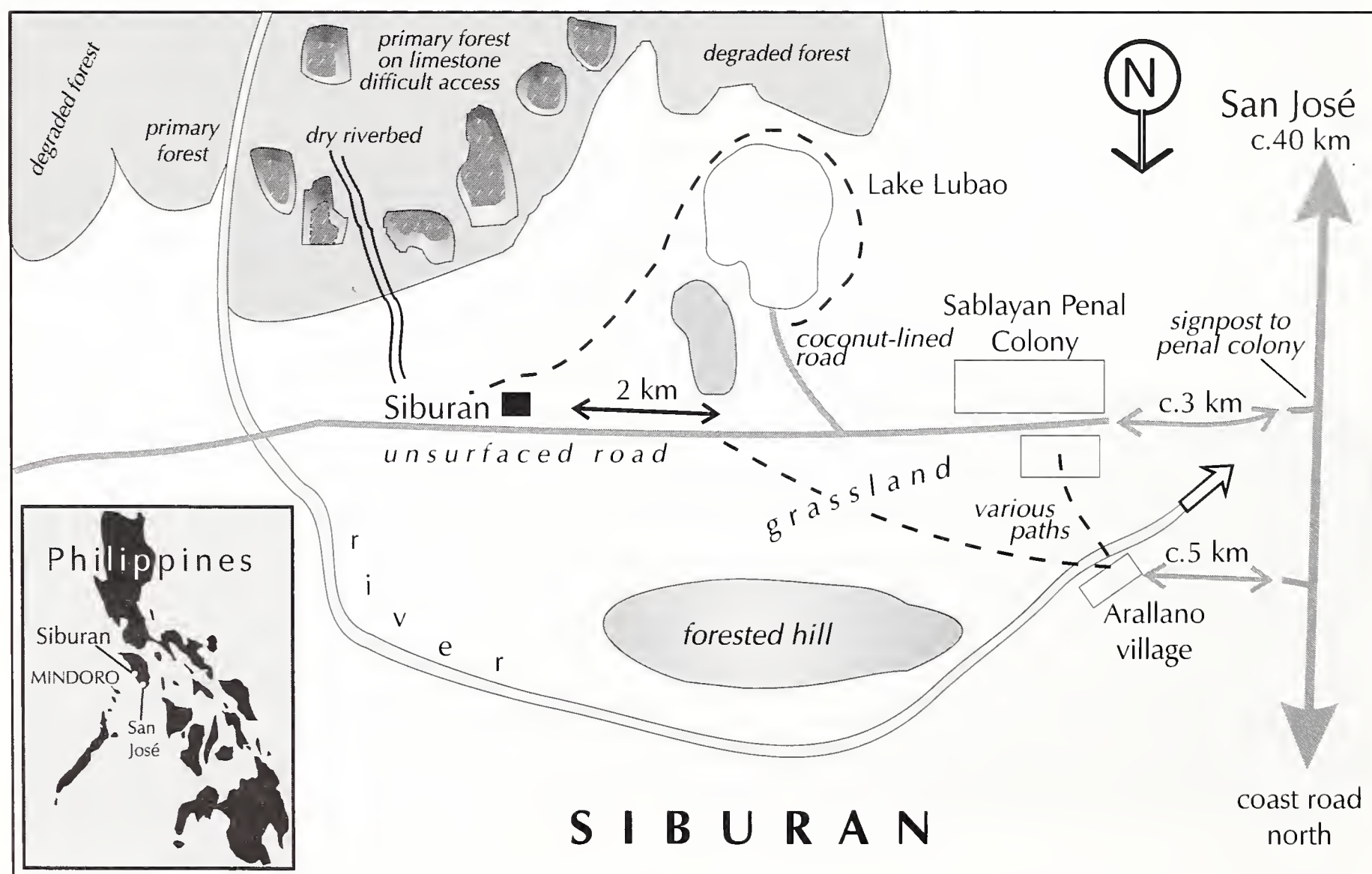


Figure 1. The location of Siburan, and some of its main features.

SSPF, and Mr Mario E. Trasmonte, Mr Rogelio Reyes and Mr Ernesto T. Virtuzado of Siburan Sub-prison for their generosity. Finally, many thanks to Mr Esequias Escalona (1992), Mr Salvador Delacruz (1994) and above all Mr Efraim Tejada (1991, 1992 and 1994), whose company made visiting Siburan not only possible but also enormously enjoyable.

References

1. Collar, N. J. and Andrew, P. (1988) *Birds to watch: the ICBP world checklist of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP Technical Publication no. 8).
2. Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield, A. J. (1994) *Birds to watch 2: the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series no. 4).
3. Custodio, C. C., Diesmos, A. and Tomas, E. (1994) A preliminary report on the biodiversity of the lowland forest in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. Unpublished.
4. Dutson, G. C. L., Evans, T. D., Brooks, T. M., Asane, D. C., Timmins, R. J. and Toledo, A. G. (1992) Conservation status of birds on Mindoro. *Bird Conserv. Internatn.* 2: 303-326.
5. Evans, T. D., Dutson, G. C. L. and Brooks, T. M. (1993) *Cambridge Philippines Rainforest Project 1991, Final Report*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International (Study Report no. 54).

6. Hornbuckle, J. (1994) Birdwatching in the Philippines. Unpublished.
7. ICBP (1992) *Putting biodiversity on the map*. Cambridge, U.K.: International Council for Bird Preservation.
8. Kemp, A. C. (1988) The systematics and zoogeography of Oriental and Australasian hornbills (Aves: Bucerotidae). *Bonn. Zool. Beitr.* 39: 315-345.
9. Swedish Space Corporation (1988) *Mapping the natural conditions of the Philippines*. Final Report. Solna, Sweden: Swedish Space Corporation.

Thomas Brooks, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, M313 Walters Life Sciences Building, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0810, U.S.A.

Guy Dutson, The Vet Surgery, Moon Lane, Modbury, Ivybridge, Devon, U.K.

Leonardo Gabutero, Chairman, Kalikasan Mindoro Foundation Inc., 2266 Mabini Street, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro 5100, Philippines.

Rob Timmins, 25 Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands B64 6AG, U.K.

Bird species recorded at Siburan, Mindoro

Compiled from four references³⁻⁶, notes from P. Morris, K. Mitchell, N. Bostock and I. Gardner and from personal observations. Nomenclature and systematic order follow Dickinson *et al* (1991) *The birds of the Philippines*, except for those species marked * which are treated as separate species following Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993). Philippine endemics are emboldened.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*
 LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*
 CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*
 STRIATED HERON *Butorides striatus*
 MALAYAN NIGHT-HERON *Gorsachius melanolophus*
 YELLOW BITTERN *Ixobrychus sinensis*
 SCHRENCK'S BITTERN *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*
 CINNAMON BITTERN *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
 WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK *Dendrocygna arcuata*
PHILIPPINE DUCK *Anas luzonica*
 TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*
 OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*
 ORIENTAL HONEYBUZZARD *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
 BARRED HONEYBUZZARD *Pernis celebensis*
 BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*
 BRAHMINY KITE *Haliastur indus*
 WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
PHILIPPINE SERPENT-EAGLE *Spilornis holospilus**
 CRESTED GOSHAWK *Accipiter trivirgatus*
 GREY-FACED BUZZARD *Butastur indicus*
 RUFOUS-BELLIED EAGLE *Hieraaetus kienerii*
PHILIPPINE HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus philippensis*
 TABON SCRUBFOWL *Megapodius cumingii*

RED JUNGLEFOWL *Gallus gallus*
 BARRED BUTTONQUAIL *Turnix suscitator*
 BUFF-BANDED RAIL *Gallirallus philippensis*
 BARRED RAIL *Gallirallus torquatus*
 WHITE-BROWED CRAKE *Porzana cinerea*
 PLAIN BUSH-HEN *Amaurornis olivacea*
 WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
 COMMON MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*
 PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
 LITTLE RINGED-PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*
 WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*
 COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*
 SWINHOLE'S SNIPES *Gallinago megala*
 PINK-NECKED GREEN-PIGEON *Treron vernans*
 POMPADOUR GREEN-PIGEON *Treron pompadora*
WHITE-EARED BROWN-DOVE *Phapitreron leucotis*
YELLOW-BREASTED FRUIT-DOVE *Ptilinopus occipitalis*
PINK-BELLIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON *Ducula poliocephala*
 GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON *Ducula aenea*
PHILIPPINE CUCKOO-DOVE *Macropygia tenuirostris**
 SPOTTED DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis*
 ZEBRA DOVE *Geopelia striata*
 COMMON EMERALD-DOVE *Chalcophaps indica*
MINDORO BLEEDING-HEART *Gallicolumba platenae*
PHILIPPINE COCKATOO *Cacatua haematuropygia*
BLUE-CROWNED RACQUET-TAIL *Prioniturus discurus*
 BLUE-NAPED PARROT *Tanygnathus lucionensis*
COLASISI *Loriculus philippensis*
 HODGSON'S HAWK-CUCKOO *Cuculus fugax*
 COMMON KOEL *Eudynamis scolopacea*
BLACK-HOODED COUCAL *Centropus steerii*
PHILIPPINE COUCAL *Centropus viridis*
 LESSER COUCAL *Centropus bengalensis*
 EASTERN GRASS OWL *Tyto longimembris*



Mindoro Bleeding-heart

Gallicolumba platenae

(Photos – all the same individual:
Pete Morris)



PHILIPPINE HAWK-OWL *Ninox philippensis*
GREAT EARED-NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus macrotis*
PHILIPPINE NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus manillensis*
SAVANNA NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus affinis*
WHISKERED TREE-SWIFT *Hemiprocne comata*
GREY SWIFTLET *Collocalia amelis**
GLOSSY SWIFTLET *Collocalia esculenta*
PYGMY SWIFTLET *Collocalia troglodytes*
PURPLE NEEDLETAIL *Hirundapus celebensis*
COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*
STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER *Halcyon capensis*
WHITE-THROATED KINGFISHER *Halcyon smyrnensis*
COLLARED KINGFISHER *Halcyon chloris*
BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER *Merops viridis*
BLUE-TAILED BEE-EATER *Merops philippinus*
DOLLARBIRD *Eurystomus orientalis*
MINDORO HORNBILL *Penelopides mindorensis**
COPPERSMITH BARBET *Megalaima haemacephala*
WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus javensis*
PHILIPPINE PYGMY WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus maculatos*
RED-BELLIED PITTA *Pitta erythrogaster*
PLAIN MARTIN *Riparia paludicola*
BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*
STRIATED SWALLOW *Hirundo striolata**
BAR-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina striata*
BLACK-BIBBED CICADABIRD *Coracina mindanensis**
BLACK-AND-WHITE TRILLER *Lalage melanoleuca*
PIED TRILLER *Lalage nigra*
ASHY MINIVET *Pericrocotus divaricatus*
YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus goiavier*
PHILIPPINE BULBUL *Hypsipetes philippinus*
BALICASSIAO *Dicrurus balicassius*
BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE *Oriolus chinensis*

SLENDER-BILLED CROW *Corvus enca*
ELEGANT TIT *Parus elegans*
PIED BUSHCHAT *Saxicola caprata*
BLUE ROCK-THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*
ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*
ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis*
STRIATED GRASSBIRD *Megalurus palustris*
ZITTING CISTICOLA *Cisticola juncidis*
GREY-STREAKED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa griseisticta*
MANGROVE BLUE FLYCATCHER *Cyornis rufigastra*
BLACK-NAPED MONARCH *Hypothymis azurea*
RUFIOUS PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*
GREEN-BACKED WHISTLER *Pachycephala albiventris*
GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*
YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
PADDYFIELD PIPIT *Anthus rufulus**
PECHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi*
WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus leucorhynchus*
BROWN SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*
LONG-TAILED SHRIKE *Lanius schach*
ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING *Aplonis panayensis*
COLETO *Sarcops calvus*
LOVELY SUNBIRD *Aethopygia shelleyi*
BICOLORED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum bicolor*
SCARLET-COLLARED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum retrocinctum*
PYGMY FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum pygmaeum*
EURASIAN TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
SCALY-BREASTED MUNIA *Lonchura punctulata*
CHESTNUT MUNIA *Lonchura malacca*

Two further species require confirmation: Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvatica*⁵ and Philippine Trogon *Harpactes ardens* (P. Morris in litt. 1995).



...SIMPLY THE BEST!

BEIDAIHE from £1150
 with Paul Holt and Martin Williams
 23 Sept-8 Oct

BHARATPUR from £1350
 with Paul Holt
 4-13 January

HONG KONG Price to be confirmed
 with Steve Rooke and Richard
 Lewthwaite, 2-12 April

Why Sunbirder?

- Professional leaders with years of field experience in the relevant countries.
- Reliable flights with BA or Thai and direct charters to Eilat.
- Best accommodation available at each locality.
- Detailed site guides with maps.
- Optional excursion programme with leaders.
- All organised by Britain's most highly rated bird tour company.



Details from Sunbird, P O Box 76, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 1DF
 Telephone 01767 682969 (Please specify which event you are interested in).

Sunbird is a trading name of Conderbury Limited



At the crossroads of two avifaunas – Timor

Richard A. Noske describes the results of a two-month survey of lowland forest birds in West Timor, in which the conservation status of the endemic birds was clarified. He found that generally the endemics are doing well, but of particular concern is the current status of three species of pigeon.

Perched on the outer, non-volcanic, margin of the province of Nusa Tenggara (NT), which comprises most of the Lesser Sundas, the island of Timor is geographically as close to Australia as Indonesia gets - only about 500 km from Darwin in the Northern Territory. With its arid, savanna-dominated landscape, Timor superficially resembles north-western Australia, except for two obvious differences: Timor is mountainous, and eucalypts do not completely dominate the vegetation. Timor is an equal mixture of two main (zoogeographic) elements: Australian (Sahul shelf) and Oriental (Sunda plate). Where else in Indonesia can you expect to see such typically Australian birds as the **Green Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis* and **Black-faced Wood-swallow** *Artamus cinereus*, right next to such typically Asian ones as **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni* and **Sunda Bush-Warbler** *Cettia vulcania*? Along with those of Maluku and the remainder of Nusa Tenggara, the birds of Timor are surely among the most poorly known in the world. A substantial proportion of the birds of this region have never been illustrated, making their field identification challenging, to say the least. Despite collecting by naturalists since 1801, less than a dozen papers have been published on the avifauna of Timor this century. The objectives of my study were to clarify the conservation status of forest birds in Timor, identify key forest remnants for avian biodiversity, and assess the significance of threats to forests and birds.

Timor has more than its fair share of 'special' birds: the number of endemics on Timor and its satellite islands (Roti and Semaui) more than rivals that on nearby Sumba¹. Of the 137 recognised resident species on Timor, of which 23 (16%) are endemic to Timor and the chain of islands from Wetar to Babar to the north-east of Timor; more than 31 (23%) of them are endemic to Nusa Tenggara, or virtually so (Table 1).

Habitats and threats

About 500 km long and 80 km wide, the island of Timor is politically divided in two: West Timor, being part of the large province of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT, including Flores and Sumba), and slightly smaller East Timor (formerly Portuguese Timor). Timor's present vegetation is a mosaic of savannas (dominated by palms, acacias, casuarinas or *Eucalyptus alba*), scrub, grasslands and forests. Forests vary enormously in character, from the wet tropical montane forests to the deciduous and evergreen forests of lower altitudes, and coastal mangroves.

But the landscape of Timor has been dramatically altered in the recent past by humans: as much as 90% of the lowlands has been affected by slash-and-burn agriculture, so that it is now difficult to determine the extent of original forest cover. Few of the remaining forests are pristine, as feral cattle are ubiquitous, and pigs and goats abundant within them. Cutting of trees continues in some remnants, as does hunting of wildlife. Because of the paucity of protected forests and the abundance of introduced mammalian herbivores, Birdlife International² list five threatened species on Timor, and a further 14 'near-threatened' (Table 1).

Around Kupang, West Timor

The capital of both West Timor and NTT is Kupang, a busy growing city. Surrounded by rice-fields and savanna woodland dominated by the characteristic 'lontar' palms (*Borassus* and *Corypha* spp.), Kupang is certainly not devoid of birdlife. **Pied Bushchat** *Saxicola caprata* and **Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach*, familiar 'tramps' of South-East Asia that have reached New Guinea but not Australia, are common on vacant land and open areas in the city. Other urbanised birds include the **Ashy-bellied White-eye** *Zosterops citrinellus*

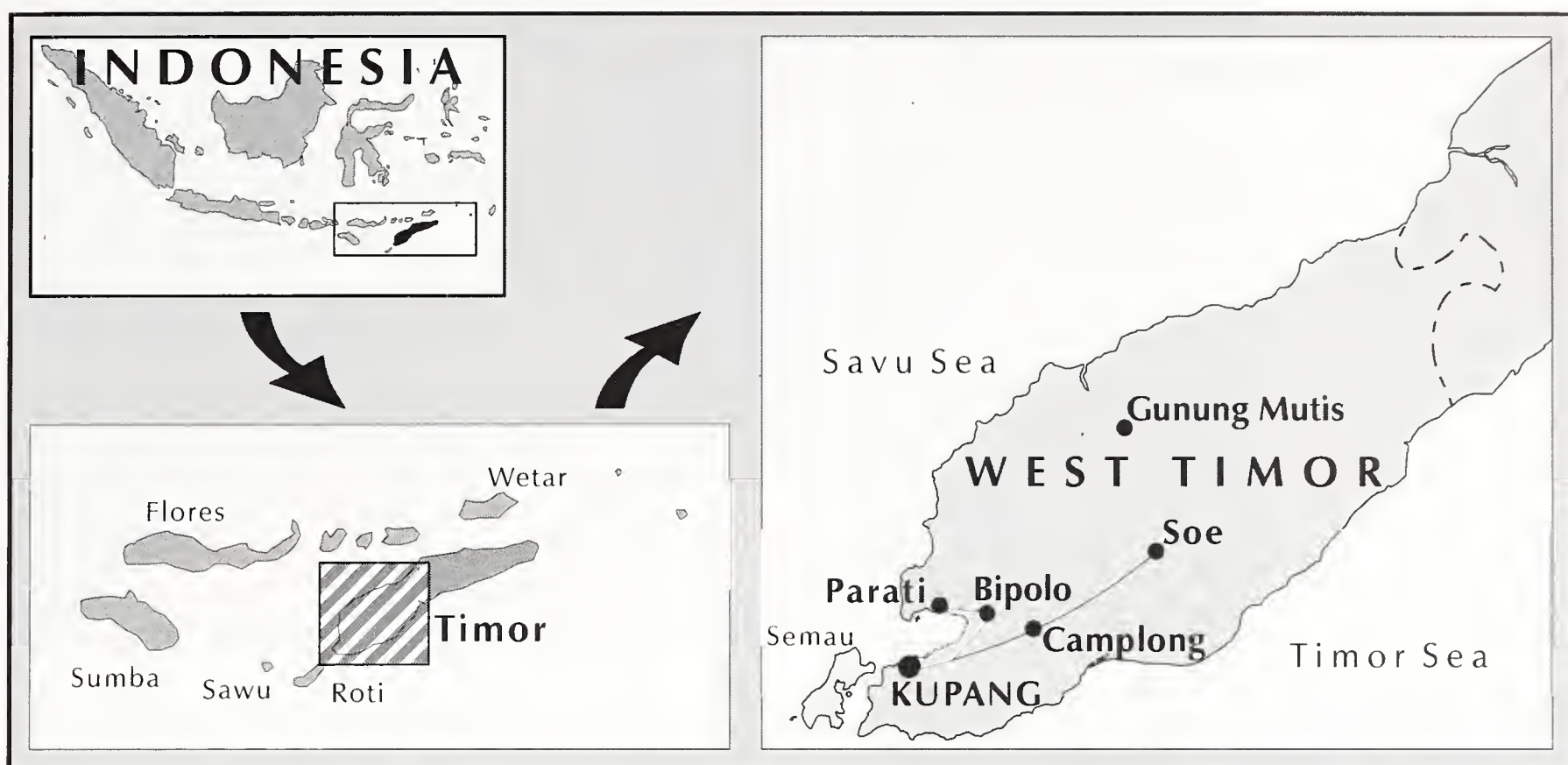


Figure 1. The location of Timor and sites mentioned in the text.

and the beautiful **Flame-breasted Sunbird** *Nectarinia solaris*, both widespread through NT. Among the many grass-finches, the commonest is the **Zebra Finch** *Taeniopygia guttata*, a small version of the Australian bird, while the less abundant **Five-coloured Munia** *Lonchura quincolor* often mixes with the commoner **Black-faced Munia** *L. molucca*. The endemic **Timor Sparrow** *Padda fuscata* may be found in grasslands further afield, but this bird is considered a pest by rice farmers, and trapping of it has almost certainly reduced numbers around Kupang.

Not surprisingly, the best birding in Timor is in the remnant forests, most of which can be reached by public bemos (mini-buses), within three hours' drive of Kupang. The good news is that most of the endemics can still be found without much difficulty in these forests. Indeed Timor's forest birds appear to have weathered the cataclysmic alteration of their habitat surprisingly well. This may be partly due to a degree of fire-tolerance among the monsoon forest plants of this fire-prone region; and possibly to fairly generalised ecological requirements among the birds. **Buff-banded Bushbird** *Buettikoferella bivittata*, representing a genus endemic to Timor island, is a ground-dweller of forest-edge, and common in dense thickets of lantana and other weeds, but where it often defies observation. **White-bellied Bush-Chat** *Saxicola gutturalis*, another endemic species, is common in fire-prone deciduous or semi-deciduous forests, even second growth and plantations in some areas, and is virtually absent

from evergreen forests. Three of the four endemic honeyeaters also seem tolerant to habitat modification: **Streaky-breasted Meliphaga** *Meliphaga reticulata*, **Red-rumped Myzomela** *Myzomela vulnerata* and **Timor Friarbird** *Philemon inornatus*, whilst occurring in higher densities in the forests, were all present in second growth.

Lowland and highland forests

Two of the richest forest patches near Kupang are the unusual evergreen coastal forest at Bipolo (en route to Pariti) and the more elevated semi-deciduous forest at Camplong (en route to Soe). Almost all of Timor's lowland forest birds have been recorded at these two sites. The commonest species there are **Ashy-bellied White-eye**, **Rufous and Northern Fantails** *Rhipidura rufifrons* and *R. rufiventris* (both occurring also in northern Australia), **Fawn-breasted Whistler** *Pachycephala orphaeus* and **Plain Gerygone** *Gerygone inornata*. Other abundant species include **Black-backed** and **Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves** *Ptilinopus cinctus* and *P. regina*, **Red-cheeked Parrot** *Geoffroyus geoffroyi* and **Green Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridus* (all found in Australia), **Olive-shouldered Parrot** *Aprosmictus jonquillaceus*, **Timor Stubtail** *Urosphena subulata*, **Timor Leaf-Warbler** *Phylloscopus presbytes*, **Timor Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis hyacinthinus*, **Timor Oriole** *Oriolus melanotis* and **Wallacean Drongo** *Dicrurus densus*.

Less abundant there and at other forest sites are **Yellow-crested Cockatoo** *Cacatua sulphurea*, **Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher** *Todiramphus*

Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher *Todiramphus australasia* and **Black Cuckoo-Dove** *Turacoena modesta*, whereas **Orange-banded Thrush** *Zoothera peronii*, the enigmatic **Black-banded Flycatcher** *Ficedula timorensis* and **Spot-breasted White-eye** *Heleia muelleri* were found in all five major forest sites surveyed, and the White-eye was the fifth most abundant species at one site near Soe.

The wetter, higher altitude forests (600-1,000 m) are the preferred habitat. **Iris Lorikeet** *Psittenteles iris* and the rather patchily distributed **Yellow-eared Honeyeater** *Lichmera flavicans*, which is delightful in both colour and voice. The lorikeet is trapped but still occurs in reasonable numbers in West Timor.

At higher altitudes still, the avifauna changes character. The montane birds of Timor are most easily sampled by ascending West Timor's highest mountain, Mt. Mutis (2,400 m). At 1,500 m, the vegetation becomes completely dominated by the montane-confined *Eucalyptus urophylla*, with an understorey of moss- and lichen-covered shrubs, while at 1,800 m and above the flora includes southern pines of the family Podocarpaceae. The only montane bird endemic to Timor is the **Timor Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula cineracea*, but there are plenty of other montane specialists. Thrushes abound, from the widespread **Island Thrush** *Turdus poliocephalus*, one of the most abundant birds above 1,200 m, to the less common **Sunda Thrush** *Zoothera andromedae*, and the strikingly patterned **Chestnut-backed Thrush** *Z. dohertyi*. Other species in these forests which are typical Sundaic montane elements are **Pygmy Wren-babbler** *Pnoepyga pusilla*, **Yellow-breasted Warbler** *Seicercus montis*, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*, and **Russet Bush-Warbler** *Bradypterus seebohmi*, which, however, has not been recorded in West Timor since the German naturalist Stein collected it on Mt. Mutis in 1932. This outlying population is significant because no populations of the species are known from any of the islands between Timor and Bali.

Pigeons and Conservation

Perhaps of greatest concern in terms of conservation status are several fruit-eating pigeons, including two species endemic to Timor and neighbouring islands and listed as threatened²: **Timor Green-Pigeon** *Treron psittacea* and **Wetar Ground-Dove** *Gallicolumba hoedtii*. The only recent record of the **Timor Green-Pigeon** (endemic to Timor and its satellite, Semau) from

West Timor are from the small (less than 2 km²), isolated lowland rainforest of Bipolo. I saw two birds there during a short visit in July 1994, but none during fieldwork in 1993. This species has apparently vanished from Camplong, where eight specimens were collected in the 1930s; but it may be secure in East Timor, where it was seen at three localities in 1974 (H. Thompson *in litt.* 1994). The **Wetar Ground-Dove** is confined to Wetar and Timor. One bird was seen in the forest site near Soe during my study, the first known record from West Timor since a specimen was collected at Camplong in 1932. Its status on Wetar is unknown.

A third pigeon of concern is the distinctive **Black Cuckoo-Dove**, also restricted to Timor and Wetar. Seen only once at both Bipolo and Camplong during the present study, the number of reports of this species appear to have declined recently as at least three different birdwatchers failed to see it during visits in the 1990s. Worryingly, it was not recorded in East Timor during surveys in 1974 (H. Thompson *in litt.* 1994). Timor Imperial-Pigeon is also listed as threatened owing to its small range and the low number of records from the montane forests of Timor and Wetar. Pigeons are apparently hunted extensively, but if this has contributed significantly to the scarcity of these birds, why has it not yet affected the large lowland **Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula rosacea* and upland **Metallic Pigeon** *Columba vitiensis*, which are still reasonably common in forests?

Whilst the security of Timor's birds lies ultimately with sensitive management of the key forest areas, there is an urgent need to clarify the status of frugivorous pigeons in Timor. Given the relative paucity of other avian and mammalian fruit dispersers in Timor (except two species of flowerpeckers and several fruit-bats), these birds probably play a major role in disseminating forest fruits. Thus further studies on the ecology and status of pigeons are required. Meanwhile, any records of the pigeons, with details of locality and date, would be gratefully received.

Acknowledgements

The work was sponsored by the Northern Territory University, Australia, and Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang, Timor, under their Memorandum of Cooperation and Collaboration. I thank the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI, Jakarta) for their approval of the project, and BKSDA, Kupang, for permission to visit sites in

Birds of Timor

- 1: *Orange-banded Thrush*
Zoothera peronii.
- 2: *Buff-banded Bushbird*
Buettikoferella bivittata.
- 3: *White-bellied Bushchat*
Saxicola gutturalis.
- 4: *Black-banded Flycatcher*
Ficedula timorensis.

(Photos: Richard Noske)



1



2



3



4

Timor. Funds for the project were provided by OBC (Survey Grant), AMNH (Frank M. Chapman Memorial Grant), EMDI (Lombok), and NTU (Darwin). I am also indebted to Drs Leo Banilodu (UNIKA, Kupang) and Ir Najamuddin Saleh (formerly BKSDA, Kupang) for their assistance with field work. Prof Mozes Toelihere (Universitas Nusa Cendana, Kupang) and Paul Jepson (BirdLife International, Bogor) provided institutional and technical support.

References

1. Jepson, P. (1993) Secrets of Sumba. *World Birdwatch* 15: 6-8.
2. Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield, A. J. (1994) *Birds to watch 2 - the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.

Richard A. Noske, Science Faculty, Northern Territory University, P.O. Box 40146, Casuarina, NT 0811, Australia.

Table 1. Restricted-range birds of Timor with information on their distribution within Nusa Tenggara (Lesser Sundas) and their threat status according to Collar *et al.*²

Key to range: TI, endemic to Timor; TG, endemic to Timor and neighbouring island(s) of either Wetar, Sawu, Roti and Semeu; NT endemic to Nusu Tenggara. Key to threat: T = threatened; NT=near-threatened.

English name	Latin name	Range	Status
Timor Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula cineracea</i>	TG	T
Pink-headed Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula rosacea</i>	NT	—
Wetar Ground-Dove	<i>Gallicolumba hoedtii</i>	TG	T
Dusky Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia magna</i>	NT	—
Timor Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron psittacea</i>	TG	T
Black Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Turacoena modesta</i>	TG	T
Yellow-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacataua sulphurea</i>	NT	T
Olive-shouldered Parrot	<i>Aprosmictus jonquillaceus</i>	TG	NT
Iris Lorikeet	<i>Psitteuteles iris</i>	TG	T
Olive-headed Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus euteles</i>	NT	—
Cinnamon-banded Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus australasia</i>	NT	NT
White-bellied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola gutturalis</i>	TG	NT
Chestnut-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dohertyi</i>	TG	—
Orange-banded Thrush	<i>Zoothera peronii</i>	NT	NT
Buff-banded Bushbird	<i>Buettikoferella bivittata</i>	TI	NT
Timor Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus presbytes</i>	TG	—
Timor Stubtail	<i>Urosphena subulata</i>	TG	NT
Plain Gerygone	<i>Gerygone inornata</i>	NT	—
Timor Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis hyacinthinus</i>	TG	—
Black-banded Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula timorensis</i>	TI	NT
Fawn-breasted Whistler	<i>Pachycephala orpheus</i>	TG	NT
Blue-cheeked Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum maugei</i>	NT	—
Flame-breasted Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia solaris</i>	NT	—
Spot-breasted White-eye	<i>Heleia muelleri</i>	TI	NT
Yellow-eared Honeyeater	<i>Lichmera flavicans</i>	TI	—
Streaky-breasted Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga reticulata</i>	TG	NT
Red-rumped Myzomela	<i>Myzomela vulnerata</i>	TI	NT
Plain Friarbird	<i>Philemon inornatus</i>	TI	NT
Tricolored Parrot-finch	<i>Erythrura tricolor</i>	TG	—
Timor Sparrow	<i>Padda fuscata</i>	TG	NT
Olive-brown Oriole	<i>Oriolus melanotis</i>	TG	—

Little-known Oriental bird

Kozlov's Bunting* *Emberiza koslowi*



Kozlov's Bunting is endemic to eastern Tibet, where it occurs in a remote and politically sensitive region. It was discovered less than a century ago, and has been observed very few times since.

The genus *Emberiza* comprises at least 38 species, ranging from South Africa to north-eastern Siberia. Most are widespread and reasonably common, but a few are rare and local. One of the least known species is Kozlov's Bunting *Emberiza koslowi*. Only about a dozen specimens have ever been collected, and only seven parties have encountered the species. It is restricted to the high mountain ridges between the dry tributary valleys of the upper Mekong and Chang Jiang rivers in north-eastern Tibet at an altitude of 3,800-4,300 m. All known records come roughly from an area enclosed within a rectangle with Yushu, Qumarleb, and Zadoi, Qinghai province, and Chamdo, Xizang Autonomous Region, in the corners. The species appears to be resident, or only slightly dispersive.

Kozlov's Bunting was described by Bianchi¹ in 1904 from a specimen collected by the expedition led by P. K. Kozlov, then a lieutenant in the Tsar of Russia army. Kozlov met with the species in August and September 1900 and in January 1901, and collected three specimens^{1,4}.

Since the discovery of the species, there are very few records. The first documented observations were made by Ernst Schäfer, during the second Dolan expedition⁷. The main expedition was refused entry to the area by local authorities, but Schäfer was allowed to proceed alone on horse-back. He came upon the species four times between 6 April and 10 May 1935, in the immediate vicinity of Yushu, and collected six specimens⁷. Some of the birds he saw were in pairs, and some of those he collected had enlarged gonads, indicating that breeding was about to commence. However, other birds he observed were still in small flocks. He makes no mention of song, but describes the call as 'a bunting-like *siik*, *siik*'⁷. He noted the birds as very tame, occurring in scrubby areas of *Cotoneaster*, *Juniperus*, *Rosa*, *Berberis* and *Ribes* between 3,800 and 4,300 m.

Two specimens held in the Academia Sinica,

Xining, were collected by Li De-Hao in 1963. One was obtained in June, near Zhadoi, and the other in September, near Qumarleb. The record at Qumarleb is about 200 km further north-east than any previous observation, and the one from Zhadoi represents the westernmost record.

Two records, dated August and September respectively, come from the area between Zhadoi and Nanqên, but I have no details about the year or collector.

During a couple of years in the mid 1980s, the entry restrictions to Tibet were relaxed, and Craig Robson and Dave Farrow managed to reach the range of Kozlov's Bunting⁶. The area is remote, even for Tibetan standards, and only after a three day journey on foot were their efforts rewarded, as they encountered a flock of 11 males and 1 female Kozlov's Bunting in the mountains south of Nanqên on 6 April 1986⁶.

The next observation was made on 9 October 1992 by a Birdquest group led by Mark Beaman, who found two males and a female at about 4,000 m in the same general area as the observation by Farrow and Robson (see photographs).

Following the information from Robson and Beaman, a group from Regulus Travel, led by myself, headed for Nanqên in late June 1993. The approach from the north is across the barren high plateau of the Bayan Har mountains south of Madoi, approximately 150 km wide. The road is mostly above 4,000 m, and the highest pass is over 5,000 m. When descending from the plateau, we made a chance stop on a steep but accessible slope in a tributary valley of the Chang Jiang river. Relatively soon a pair of Kozlov's Bunting was located. Their behaviour was typical of buntings, and they spent most of the time during which we observed them foraging on the ground, but perched in bushes on a number of occasions. Although some of the other species we observed were feeding young, the buntings did not appear to be breeding. They were fairly tame, but not

Little-known Oriental bird

Kozlov's Bunting* *Emberiza koslowi*



Figure 1. The distribution of Kozlov's Bunting.

Kozlov's Bunting Plate

Illustration by Clive Byers from
Buntings and Sparrows by Urban
Olsson and Jon Curson to be published
later this year by Pica Press.

Kozlov's Bunting *Emberiza koslowi*

1: Adult male. 2: Adult female
(Photos: Urban Olsson)

3, 4, 5 and title: Immature male
(Photos: Mark Beaman)



5



4

Production of these colour plates
has been sponsored by Natural
History Book Service Ltd.

 **NHBS**

easy to see well in the relatively dense habitat. The birds frequented scrubby vegetation of low thorny bushes and *Cotoneaster* interspersed with grassy patches on a steep slope. This habitat is not found on the Bayan Har plateau, but reoccurs to the north of it, and is inhabited by the same species that were seen with the buntings, e.g. White-browed Tit *Parus superciliosus*, Tickell's Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis*, Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides* and Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophciata*. It seems likely that the wide plateau has prevented Kozlov's Bunting from extending its range further north. All the previous records of the species come from the area to the south-west of the Chang Jiang valley, and it may be worth mentioning that a search in the Obala Valley in October 1989 failed to find the species. The Obala Valley is approximately 150 km east-south-east of this locality, and apparently a part of the same mountain range.

The *Regulus* Travel group then continued south to the area south of Nanqên, into the same general area as the two previous observations. Although the exact places could not be located, and with limited time available, only one area of seemingly suitable habitat was visited. A second pair was found almost immediately, indicating that the species may be fairly common in suitable habitat. This vegetation covers large areas on the sides of the mountains. Species found in the same area were Pink-tailed Bunting *Urocynchramus pylzowi*, White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carpinipes*, Tickell's Leaf-Warbler and Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. The geographically sympatric Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii* seems to prefer lower altitudes. The pair kept close together, and the male was singing sporadically (see below). At one point the birds were observed gathering nest material, but they did not appear to be actually building a nest. Presumably the breeding season is late, as in many other species occurring at high altitudes in Tibet, but a pair collected in mid-April had enlarged gonads.

Kozlov's Bunting is a relatively large, and long-tailed bunting. It shows no obvious similarity to any *Emberiza*, and details of its relationship to other members of the genus are obscure.

The breeding male is unmistakable, characterised by a contrasting head pattern with very broad white supercilium, blackish crown and ear-coverts, and a white throat. The lores and chin are dark chestnut, but appear blackish at a

distance. The mantle and greater coverts are chestnut and the rump grey. The throat is separated from grey underparts by a very characteristic black pectoral band, and the vent and undertail coverts are pale cinnamon. The tail is dark brown, the median pair paler with whitish edges, and the two outermost pairs largely white. In fresh plumage the mantle is striped chestnut and buffish, and pale fringes partly obscure the crown and breast pattern. Both supercilium and submoustachial stripe are narrowly streaked blackish.

Females in breeding plumage differ from males in having the crown olive-grey, streaked dark, and the mantle brownish grey, streaked black and chestnut. The scapulars and greater coverts are chestnut, and the rump is unstreaked olive grey. The facial expression of the female is somewhat different from other buntings. The supercilium is rather broad and prominent, and the ear-coverts relatively uniformly dark grey-brown, sharply set off from the pale yellowish-buff throat. The malar stripe is inconspicuous, enhancing the contrast between throat and ear-coverts. As in the male, the pale throat contrasts with greyer breast and belly, although the difference is less pronounced. There is no black breast-band. Instead, the upper breast is washed yellowish with a narrow collar of dark spots and streaks. The undertail-coverts are pale chestnut.

The song is a short twittering phrase, very similar to that of Godlewski's Bunting, *cheep chüüip tererep cheechüüi*, or *tsip tsi tsi chiriree teetew*. A thin drawn out *see* is often heard from birds on the ground and appears to be a contact or possibly alarm call. The flight call is a *tsip tsip*.

Kozlov's Bunting has never been found away from the upper reaches of the Mekong and Chang Jiang rivers. Its range denotes part of the Tibet Valleys Endemic Bird Area (D06). The southernmost record at Chamdo was made in January, which may represent post-breeding dispersal, but the known range is still very far from presently accessible areas, and the only realistic way to see the species is to visit the breeding areas. The remote mountains south of Nanqên, situated literally at roads' end, both when approaching from the north and south, seem to be a stronghold of the species. Travel in these parts of Tibet requires a special permit, which is difficult to obtain. The Yushu area is politically sensitive due to the many prison camps in the region, and the local authorities are

notorious for arresting and deporting foreigners who manage to reach the area without the proper permits. The road from the north is also exceedingly poor in places, partly because of extensive roadwork, which will hopefully make access easier in the future.



Kozlov's Bunting *Emberiza koslowi* by Craig Robson

References

1. Bianchi V. L. (1907) *Material avifauna Mongoliya i vostotsnago Tibet*. (in Russian).
2. Cheng, Tso-hin (1987) *A synopsis of the avifauna of China*. Beijing: Science Press.
3. King, B. and Peng, J. T. (1991) Some bird observations in Ganzi prefecture of extreme north-west Sichuan province, China. *Forktail* 6: 15-32.
4. Kozlov, P. K. (1905-1906) *Mongoliya i Kam* (in Russian).
5. Lindsay, A. B. (1908) Through eastern Tibet and Kam. *Geogr. J.* 31: 402-415, 522-534, 649-661, [Translation of Kozlov, 1905-1906 in part].
6. Robson, C. R. (1986) Recent observations of birds in Xizang and Qinghai provinces, China. *Forktail* 2: 67-82.
7. Schäfer, E. (1938) Ornithologische Ergebnisse zweier Forschungsreisen nach Tibet. *J. Orn.* 86, Sonderheft: 1-349.
8. Vaurie, C. (1972) *Tibet and its birds*. London: H. F. and G. Witherby.

Urban Olsson, University of Göteborg,
Department of Zoology, Medicinaregatan 18,
413 90, Göteborg, Sweden.

*Kozlov's Bunting, rather than Tibetan Bunting is used at the author's request.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR BIRD SURVEY EXPEDITIONS TO SULAWESI

Just some of the 80 endemic birds you can expect to see in the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, home to well over 300 spectacular bird species:

Golden-Mantled Racquet-Tailed Parrot
Vinous-Breasted Sparrowhawk
Blue-Headed Wood Kingfisher
Green Hanging Parrot
Maroon-Chinned Fruit Dove

Fiery-Billed Malkoha
Knobbed Hornbill
Maleo
Isabelline Waterhen
Blue-Fronted Flycatcher

Sulawesi Serpent Eagle
Ornate Lory
Barred Honey Buzzard
Minahassa Owl
Greater Streaked Honeyeater

Expedition members will be taking part in a large international scientific survey of the birds of Sulawesi, many of which are on the brink of extinction. The data gathered will be used to establish new wildlife reserve areas and to develop management plans for the conservation of threatened species.

● Operation Wallacea is a not for profit project supported by the HongkongBank Care for Nature Trust Fund ●

Volunteers must meet all the costs of their expedition. Only 90 expedition places are available in 1995.

For further details contact: Operation Wallacea, c/o Ecosurveys Ltd, Priory Lodge, Hagnaby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire PE23 4BP Tel: 01790 763665 Fax: 01790 763417





Treeswifts

The treeswifts Hemiprocnidae are a family of four species within the order Apodiformes. Three of the four species have strictly Oriental ranges, whilst the fourth, Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea*, has a primarily Papuan range, although it occurs as far west as Maluku in the Oriental Region.

The behaviour of the family differs considerably from the family Apodidae. Treeswifts typically perch for long periods on the exposed branches of trees or (Whiskered Treeswifts *H. comata* in particular) on telephone or power cables. These perches usually overlook open areas such as forest clearings or waterways, over which the birds hunt for insects. The behaviour of the smallest species, Whiskered Treeswift, is often reminiscent of a flycatcher as it makes short circular sallies. This species has an unsteady flight on rapidly rocking wings that is quite unlike that of the typical swifts. However, the active feeding flight of the other treeswifts recalls that of the larger typical swifts or, when moving less rapidly with their deep wing-beats and frequent periods of gliding, the bee-eaters Meropidae. Treeswifts are highly vocal and their presence is often first indicated by their very shrill wader- or tern-like calls made both from the perch or whilst flying.

Nesting behaviour points to close affinity to the Apodidae, as the relatively tiny nest (50 x 30 mm across and 10-12 mm deep for Crested Treeswift *H. coronata*¹) is composed of papery bark scales and small feathers bound together with saliva. The nest is placed in an exposed situation on the side of a horizontal branch and only one egg is laid. As with the Old World Palm Swifts *Cypsiurus* which have a similarly exposed nest site, the egg is secured in the nest using saliva.

The polytypic Grey-rumped Treeswift *H. longipennis* and the monotypic Crested Treeswift are the most closely related species of the family and were considered to be conspecific by Peters⁴, but Brooke³ disputed this. They are currently considered to form a superspecies and are one of several species pairs previously thought to be allopatric but which have recently been proved to occur together in Kaeng Krachan in south-west Thailand, north of the Isthmus of Kra⁵.

These two species differ both in structure and plumage. Grey-rumped Treeswift is generally darker apart from its contrastingly pale grey rump and whitish underparts below the breast. In adult males of Crested the orange face-patch is far brighter and is not restricted to the ear-coverts but meets under the chin. In females the dark ear-patch is far more contrasting than in Crested. Other plumage differences have been noted but are less easily observed in the field. Structural differences are best seen in perched individuals, when it can be seen that in Crested Treeswift the tail extends well beyond the wings, whereas in Grey-rumped the wings extend beyond the tail. Boonsong and Round² note that the call of Grey-rumped tends to be trisyllabic and that of Crested Treeswift typically disyllabic, but vocalisations in both species are variable as either will occasionally utter atypical calls.

As the accompanying plate shows all treeswift species exhibit sexual dimorphism and age-related plumage features to a far greater extent than other members of the order.

References

1. Ali, S. and Ripley S. D. (1970) *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*, 5. Bombay: Oxford University Press.
2. Boonsong Lekagul and Round, P. (1991) *A guide to the birds of Thailand*. Bangkok: Saha Karn Bhaet Co. Ltd.
3. Brooke, R. (1969) *Hemiprocne coronata* is a good species. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 89: 169.
4. Peters, J. L. (1940) *Checklist of the birds of the World*, 4. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
5. Robertson, I. (1993) Birdwatching areas: Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand. *Bull. Oriental Bird Club* 17: 38-41.

Phil Chantler, 66 Hunter Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, U.K.

Treeswifts Plate

Illustration by Gerald Driessens from *Swifts* by Phil Chantler to be published later this year by Pica Press.

Key: From top to bottom

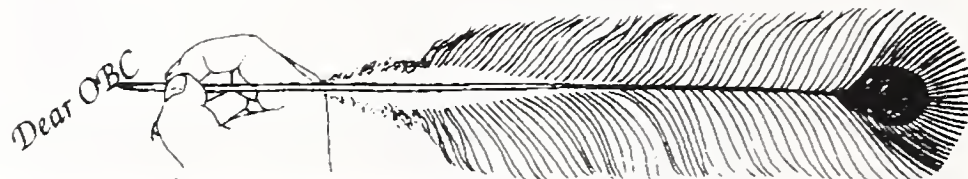
Moustached Treeswift *Hemiprocne mystacea*

Grey-rumped Treeswift *H. longipennis*

Crested Treeswift *H. coronata*

Whiskered Treeswift *H. comata*

To the editor



Tibetan Rosefinch *Kozlowia roborowskii* sightings on the Tibetan plateau

During a four month birding trip to central China in 1993, I observed Tibetan (Roborovski's) Rosefinch *Kozlowia* (= *Carpodacus*) *roborowskii*, which is the first record of the species for over fifty years. The sightings were made on Qingzang road, which joins Lhasa and Gormud and is the most popular route with tourists travelling overland to Tibet. There are two high passes on this road, the Kunlun Pass (Kunlun Shankou) to the north and Tanggula Pass (Tanggula Shankou) on the border between Tibet (Xizang) and Qinghai to the south.

I arrived at Tanggula Pass on 8 July and spent the next two days looking for birds in the area. Situated at an altitude of 5,200 m, the weather was harsh, with 10 cm of snow falling on the morning of the 10th. However, that day a flock of Tibetan Rosefinches was located in a shallow depression (see photograph) at the head of an ancient glacier. They were on a hillside covered with loose stones the size of a man's head, with a few streams fed by melted snow flowing down into a wet meadow below.



Tanggula Pass – Tibetan Rosefinch habitat

It was difficult to ascertain flock size because the birds were mainly inactive and scattered around the stony terrain. However, the flock repeatedly flew up and returned to the same patch of ground, and birds were seen on several occasions to fly up and chase each other. There were about 15 birds in the flock, apparently mainly males, as only about three females were seen. They were feeding on the flowers of *Pedicularis*, and pecking at clods of earth.

Description of male

Head and throat iridescent dark red, throat finely spotted white. Upperparts from nape down to mantle and rump strongly greyish with no streaking or other noticeable markings. Underparts from breast to abdomen pink, tinged grey. Scapulars and wing-coverts grey, tinged pinkish. Flight feathers dark, tertials and secondaries fringed whitish, and primaries fringed pink. Tail feathers as dark as the primaries, also with pink fringes. Tail looked proportionately shorter than other rosefinches. Eyes, bill and legs very dark or black, with white feathers on the thigh.

The bill was characteristically thin and pointed, which, together with the long primaries, gave the birds a distinctive jizz. In the plate in Meyer de Schauensee (1984) *Birds of China*, the primaries are shown to almost reach the tail of the tip at rest, but on several birds which I observed closely they only extended to about two-thirds of the length of the tail. Moreover, the shape of the forehead was more domed than in the illustration, giving a rather different jizz.

Females were not seen well, but had conspicuous yellow bills.

Chikara Otani c/o Akira Hibi, 13-8 Minami-Yawata, Shizuoka, Shizuoka-ken, 422, Japan.

The description of the birds seen by Chikara Otani fits well with that given for Tibetan Rosefinch by Meyer de Schauensee (1984), except for the difference in wing length, and the description of the 'upperparts from nape down to mantle and rump strongly greyish with no streaking or other noticeable markings', rather than Meyer de Schauensee's description of the back as 'rose colour mixed with pale ashy' and the rump as 'light rose'.

However, there is almost zero chance of confusion with another species based on Chikara's detailed observations. Additionally, the description in Meyer de Schauensee (1984) is undoubtedly based on skins, and it is possible that the mode of preparation of the specimens led to the wings appearing longer than they would do on live birds.

*The use of the name **Kozlowia** is strongly supported by Mark Beaman, rather than following Sibley and*

Monroe (1990), who subsumed *Kozlowia* in *Carpodacus* without giving any explanation for this change. He argues that this is probably erroneous, in view of the highly distinctive morphology of *Kozlowia* (see for example Roselaar 1992, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 112: 225-231), and that this species may prove to be more closely related to the mountain-finches of the genus *Leucosticte* than to *Carpodacus*. He also strongly supports the use of the common name Roborovski's Rosefinch rather than Sibley and Monroe's Tibetan Rosefinch 'in view of the hardships that Roborovski suffered in his journeys in Tibet... and because there are no less than 17 species of rosefinch recorded from Tibet'.

Tanggula Pass lies about 350 km to the south-west of the nearest known locality for this species, and is within its known altitudinal range. The intervening region has never been explored ornithologically, so, in the light of Chikara Otani's observation, it would appear likely that the Tibetan Rosefinch occupies all the high country from the South Koko Nor Range (south of Qinghai Lake) southwards and westwards to the Tanggula Pass. Indeed, as the desolate northern Chang Tang to the west of the Trans-Tibet Highway has also never been ornithologically explored, it seems quite possible that the breeding range of the species will one day be found to extend well to the west in the high, stony, mountain zone. Eds.

A record of Goliath Heron in Assam

There are several old records of Goliath Herons *Ardea goliath* from various locations in the Indian subcontinent², but very few recent sightings seem to have been published. The irregular appearance of this huge bird so far from its African homeland has led to speculation that small numbers could perhaps be breeding in the Sunderbans of Bangladesh, but there are only two recent sightings for that country³.

During the 1994 Birdquest tour to Assam the biggest surprise (literally) was an undoubted Goliath Heron at Kaziranga National Park. It was seen by three members of the party (S. Rose, B. Shaw and myself) in the late afternoon of 13 April, some 3 km north of Mihimuk.

It was first noticed as a seemingly very large heron flying towards us with a markedly slow, ponderous and shallow wing action (recalling that of an adjutant *Leptoptilos*). It was flying quite low, as if merely moving from one lake to another, and passed us at no more than 150 m. The large size was apparent and confirmed by other birds

flying nearby, especially Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. All hopes of the more likely possibility of White-bellied Heron *A. insignis* were dashed as it crossed our track in profile, giving views of the chestnut sides of head and neck, and underparts contrasting with uniform dark slate upperwing and dark underwing. The head looked heavy but was enhanced by its markedly long, thick bill (quite unlike the slender serpentine look of the head of a Purple Heron). The long blackish legs projected relatively further beyond the tail/body than in Purple or Grey Heron *A. cinerea*.

We were somewhat aghast at seeing such a bird in India: Ali and Ripley² do not mention Assam in their list of locations, and the record seemed all the more remarkable so far from the coast, although there is an old sighting in Sikkim¹. P. C. Bhattacharjee (*in litt.* 1994) confirmed that there are two other recent records of Goliath Herons from Assam: one from Panidihing, Sibsagar District 'in the last winter' and one from Sareswer beel, Goalpara District, in 1990. He also mentioned that a group from the Bombay Natural History Society reported the species from Manas National Park on the Bhutan/Assam border (no date stated).

It is quite likely that the Assam birds had reached the wetlands of the interior by following the Brahmaputra River from Bangladesh. It is not inconceivable that the three recent Assam records refer to one wandering individual, but perhaps are not the same as the two sightings from Bangladesh (1990, 1993/94 and 1994 for Assam and 1988 and 1992 for Bangladesh). Do a few pairs breed in the Sunderbans after all?

References

1. Ali, S. (1962). *The birds of Sikkim*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
2. Ali, S. and Ripley, S. D. (1968). *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*, 1. Bombay: Oxford University Press.
3. Thompson, P. M., Harvey, W. G., Johnson, D. L., Millin, D. J., Rashid, S. M. A., Scott, D. A., Stanford, C. and Woolner, J. D. (1993). Recent notable bird records from Bangladesh. *Forktail* 9: 13-44.

Steve Madge, 2 Church Row, Shevioc, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 3EH, U.K.

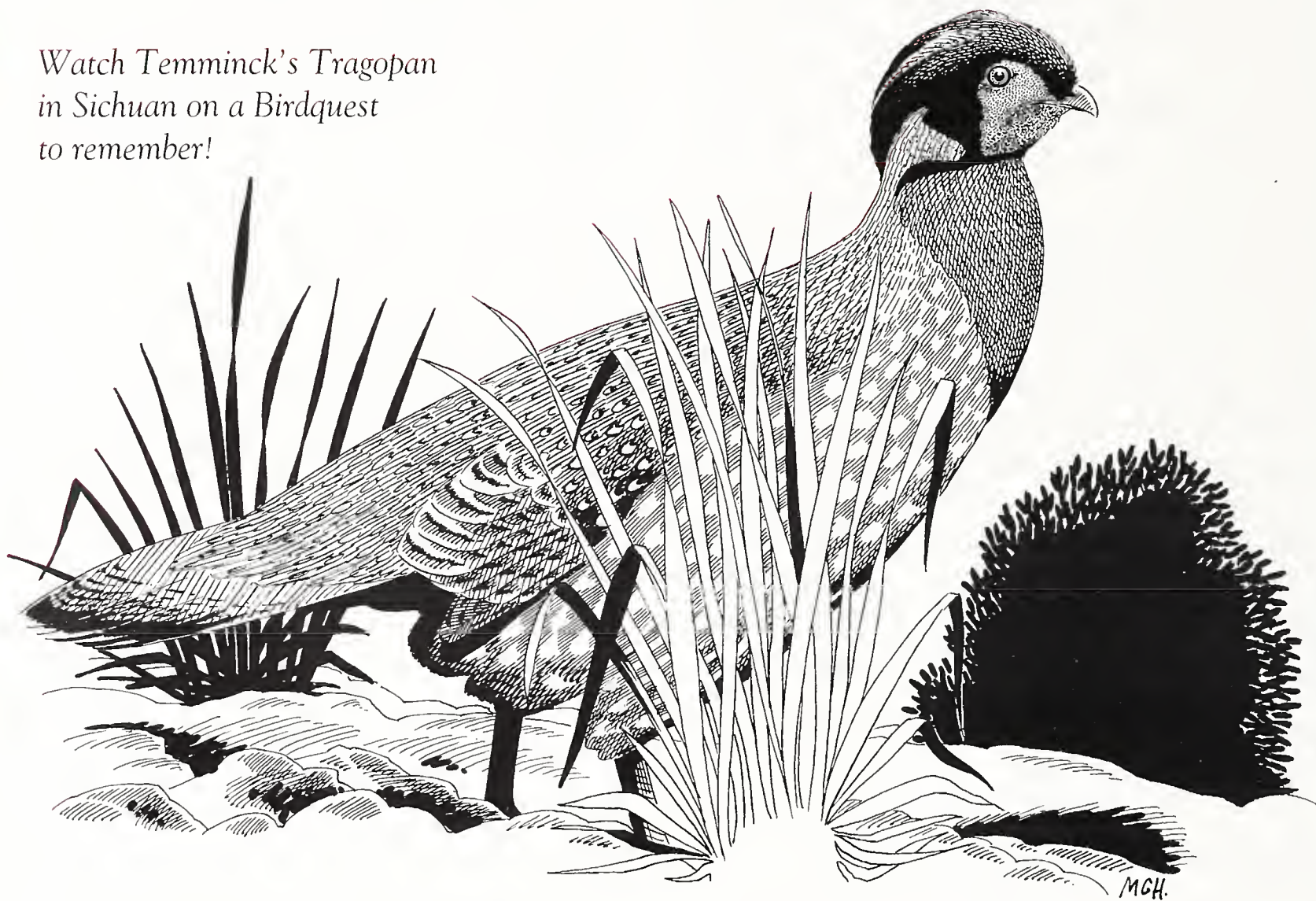
The third record of Goliath Heron for Bangladesh was recorded this February on the coast between Sandip and Hatya (see From the field p.68). Eds.

BIRDQUEST



The Ultimate in Birding

Watch Temminck's Tragopan
in Sichuan on a Birdquest
to remember!



1996 Tours to • Eastern Turkey • Israel • Yemen
UAE & Bahrain • Turkestan • Siberia • Ussuriland
Arctic Siberia • Beidaihe • Hong Kong & South China
Sichuan • Tibet • Northern India • Nepal
Sikkim, Darjeeling & Assam
Southern India & The Andamans • Sri Lanka • Burma
Thailand • Peninsular Thailand • Vietnam • Borneo
The Philippines • Java & Bali • Sulawesi & Halmahera

BIRDQUEST - the natural choice in Asia

For our brochure contact BIRDQUEST at Two Jays,
Kemple End, Birdy Brow, Stonyhurst, Lancashire BB7 9QY, U.K.
Tel: 01254-826317. Fax: 01254-826780. ATOL 2937.



Sumatran Cochoa
(adult male)
Cochoa beccarii
Watercolour by Bill Simpson

Sumatran Cochoa *Cochoa beccarii* on Gunung Kerinci, Sumatra

Between 14 and 17 February 1994, two Sumatran Cochoas were observed on Gunung Kerinci, West Sumatra, Indonesia. One was an adult male, whilst the other was thought to be the previously undescribed adult female. Two calls, also previously undescribed, were noted.

Introduction

Lou Cross, Jerry Warne and I visited Gunung Kerinci in February 1994. We had already spent four days on the mountain by 14 February, mostly along the mud-bath of a main track to the summit from Keresek Tua. On that particular day, I decided to go straight up to the shelter about three-quarters of the way up, though I saw very little after several hours lurking in nearby gullies, so I decided to descend slowly. At roughly 2,000 m I noticed a dark, medium-sized bird fly a short distance, almost overhead, into the canopy of a large lichen-covered tree. For about 20 minutes the bird was motionless, and even from several angles, all that remained visible was its tail and part of the rump. Suddenly, the bird stretched its neck, its head appearing from behind a branch confirming its identity as a Sumatran Cochoa *Cochoa beccarii*, one of the most rarely found Sumatran endemics.

The bird stared at me for a few minutes before being joined by a second, differently-marked individual. Two Sumatran Cochoas in the same tree! After a few more minutes both birds slipped quietly away into the valley below. Luckily, I was able to relay a message to LC and JW via a pair of hikers returning from the summit. They arrived about an hour and a half later and to their relief the second bird soon reappeared in the same tree before it dropped down into the valley as before. During the next few hours, neither bird returned, so we departed for Keresek Tua.

Over the next three days the cochoas repeatedly returned to the same area. We watched them for many hours, getting excellent views of the male, and fairly good views of the second individual – a suspected adult female. The male would usually appear about midday and sit preening for up to an hour at a range of c.10 m. When it disappeared, it was invariably into the valley directly below. The other individual would

appear more frequently, but only for a few minutes at a time. It would announce its arrival by crashing into the foliage of the usual tree where it would collect a few small fruits before dropping down into the valley in the same direction as the male. It seemed possible that the birds were attending nearby young. They always left the feeding tree in the same direction and unkempt feathering about the face of the presumed female is perhaps indicative of a bird that has been feeding young.

Description

The adult male was about the size of a large thrush. The bill was broad-based and blackish, with a hooked tip just visible on the upper mandible (Plate 1). The plumage was entirely matt black except for bright iridescent blue patches in the wings and tail. This was azure on the greater coverts, inner webs of the tertials, and basal two-thirds of the secondaries with a small wedge at the visible primary bases. The tips of most of the inner greater coverts were tipped with small, black wedges. The long, slightly rounded tail was a duller, more turquoise blue, and almost black on the shafts of the central rectrices and the outer webs of the outer rectrices. A subterminal band was also blackish.

A distinct lilac-blue crown patch was especially bright when viewed from the side. It angled down in front of the eye, creating a 'mean' expression. The iris was hazel and surrounded by a thick, red orbital ring which included a slightly paler, smoother wedge of skin behind the eye. At close range, three or four pairs of rictal bristles could be seen extending around half-way along the bill from the base of the lower mandible. The legs and feet were mainly grey, but the soles and lower rear tarsus were dark reddish.

The bird thought to be an adult female (Plate 2) was similar in all physical proportions, but

differed in the following plumage features: body feathering was dark brown with a distinct ginger-buff throat and face. A small whitish area was visible on the chin, and the face looked somewhat scruffy around the bill. The blue patches in the wing were the same as the male, but were a shade paler. The tail appeared identical to the male's. The legs and feet were a pale flesh, darker and greyer along the front edge of the tarsus.

Two calls were heard, given by the male only. The first was a quiet, thin, high-pitched whistle similar to that of a Garnet Pitta *Pitta granatina*, but shorter and higher in pitch. The second was a *sip* note, similar to that of Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica*, and was only uttered in flight.

Discussion

I believe the second individual to be the previously unrecorded adult female, for several reasons. The underparts were a uniform dark brown, whereas immatures of the other three species of cochoa are more pale and buffy, with obvious dark barring^{3,4}. The red orbital ring was similar in colour to that of the adult male. We would have expected it to be dull, if not absent, in an immature bird.

Mystifyingly, someone at some stage in the first half of this century treated Sumatran Cochoa as a race of Javan Cochoa *C. azurea* and many checklists of birds of the world followed this lead¹, this error still continuing in the 1980s (e.g. van Marle and Voous⁵). I observed an adult male Javan Cochoa only ten days prior to visiting Kerinci and was surprised by the obvious size and plumage differences between these taxa. In fact Robinson and Kloss⁶ judged *beccarii* to be closest to Purple Cochoa *C. purpurea*.

Only four specimens of Sumatran Cochoa exist, all of males (hence the unknown appearance of females) collected in West Sumatra between 1,200 and 1,700 m². There were two sight records from north Sumatra in 1982, one of a presumed immature⁵. An individual was also observed in Kerinci-Seblat National Park at 1,000 m in 1993². Perhaps the unobtrusive nature of this colourful and distinctive species makes them difficult to see, but with so few observations they must also be very thinly distributed.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Peter Colston and the staff of the British Museum, Tring, for allowing access to skins, Joe Tobias for translating my handwriting and commenting on an early draft,

and last but not least, Jerry Warne and Lou Cross for not assuming I had flipped my lid.

References

1. Collar, N. J. and Andrew, P. (1987) Red data birds: the cochoas. *World Birdwatch* 9(4): 5.
2. Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield, A. J. (1994) *Birds to Watch 2 - the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.
3. King, B. F., Dickinson, E. C. and Woodcock, M. W. (1975) *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia*. London: Collins.
4. MacKinnon, J. and Phillipps, K. (1993) *A field guide to the birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. van Marle, J. G. and Voous, K. H. (1988) *The birds of Sumatra: an annotated checklist*. London: British Ornithologists' Union (Checklist no. 10).
6. Robinson, H. C. and Kloss, C. B. (1918) Results of an expedition to Korinchi Peak, Sumata. *Birds J. Fed Malay States Mus.* 9: 81-284.

Bill Simpson, c/o Green Watch, Central Fire Station, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FB, U.K.

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL ON FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

DUTCH BIRDING



- ☐ Excellent papers on identification, distribution, occurrence, movements and behaviour of Palearctic birds
- ☐ Regular contributions on Asian-Pacific birds
- ☐ Latest news on rare and interesting birds in the Netherlands and the Western Palearctic
- ☐ Well produced with numerous high quality colour photographs
- ☐ Yearly report on rare birds in the Netherlands
- ☐ In English or with extensive English summaries

For information or a free sample issue, write to:
Dutch Birding, Postbus 75611, 1070 AP Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

*Subscribers to Dutch Birding can claim 25% off a
British Birds subscription*



Sumatran Cochoa
(presumed adult female)
Cochoa beccarii
Watercolour by Bill Simpson

Birdwatching areas

Kerinci-Seblat National Park, Sumatra



Anyone intent on finding and studying Sumatra's endemic birds, or spending time birding in a magnificent and peaceful landscape, is well advised to make for Kerinci-Seblat National Park. In this article Joe Tobias gives travel and accommodation details for the two most popular areas of the park, and notes on locating the specialities.

Introduction

Sumatra, the westernmost of the Greater Sunda islands, has between fourteen and twenty mainland endemic bird species^{8,12}, depending on the vagaries of taxonomy. Most of these inhabit the montane forests of the Barisan range which runs down the western side of the island. Kerinci-Seblat National Park, approximately midway along the range, is the best and most accessible area in which to see the vast majority of endemics. The main town in the park is Sungai Penuh, which spreads out amongst rice paddies on the floor of the deforested Kerinci valley, and lies c. 200 km south-west of Padang by road (Figure 1).

You can visit the park throughout the year but probably the the most pleasant and productive time is during the driest months between June and September; the wet season is mainly November to March, and it can get very wet. Below I describe travel and accommodation details for two sites in the park, and notes on locating the specialities. Species endemic to Sumatra¹² are marked with ^E after their English name.

Gunung Kerinci

This is one of the park's main volcanic peaks, dominating the horizon in the area's central plateau (Figure 2). The mountain's natural vegetation is diminishing rapidly in extent despite being officially protected. The lowest trees are being burnt continually to make room for more cultivation, and the upper slopes extend far above the treeline such that remaining forest forms a narrowing circlet on Kerinci's flanks. At least five days are required to see a good selection of the endemics, and the many other interesting birds of the area.

If coming to the park from the south, it is possible to stop at Bangko on the main highway north to Padang/Medan, then take one of the small buses (they often break down) over the eastern range to Sungai Penuh. The bus from

Bangko struggles for 5-8 hours through some interesting forest. If arriving from Padang (to where many flights are available), there are several buses daily to Sungai Penuh. Sumatran road surfaces and a circuitous route, however, make this 200 km journey last 12 hours.

Permits for the park are cheap and should be acquired from the PHPA park headquarters in Sungai Penuh. From the market, frequent buses depart for Keresek Tua at the foot of the volcano, from where access to the mountain is by foot or motorbike. The Letter-W waterfall (not W-shaped!) is reached from Keresek Tua by buses which either go right past the waterfall, or stop at Pelompek, a 3 km walk away.

Once at Keresek Tua, accommodation is available in a few small hostels. Of these, the Homestay/Keluarga Subandi is strongly recommended. It is near the unusually quiet mosque, immediately west of the turn-off to Kerinci peak. The owner of the homestay, Pak Subandi, is helpful, friendly, speaks some English and is interested in birds. Cheap and excellent food is available, and a birder's logbook is kept in the hostel. The walk to the forest edge is a famous fifty-minute uphill hike through tea plantations, but Pak Subandi will drive you up to good habitat in minutes on the back of his motorbike (pre-dawn if required), for a small charge. It's also a good idea to camp in the forest a couple of times. This is possible in the new, well-built 'base-camp' shelter, c. 200 m inside the forest edge. The shelter itself sleeps at least ten people.

Once inside the forest there is a main trail to the summit which provides excellent birding. A couple of degraded side trails exist at lower levels where opportunistic logging occurs. If you have time, it might be worth trying the Lake Blibis trail on the western flank of Kerinci, as I have never read of anyone birding there and it may well be good for pittas or pheasants.

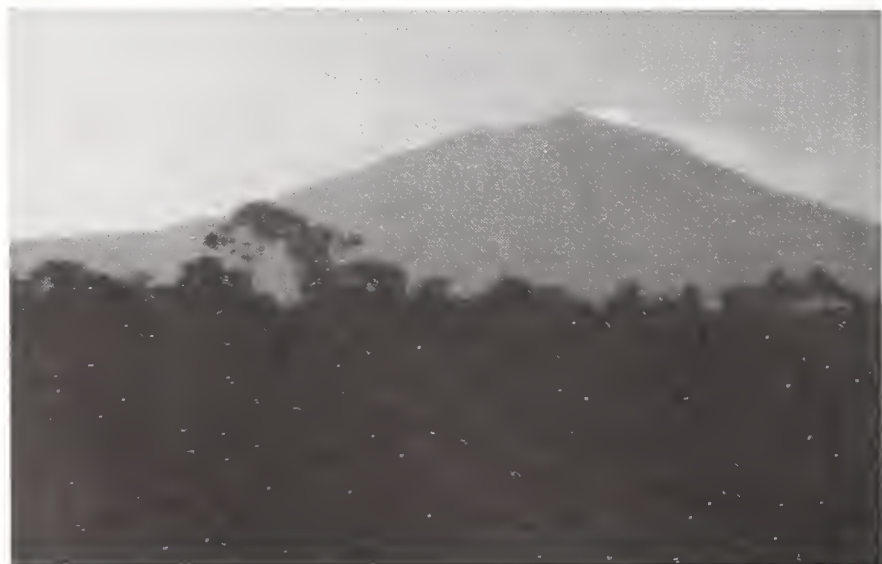
Mauro Sako

This is a village on the Sungai Penuh–Tapan road which is surrounded by huge areas of excellent hill forest. There are no trails but there is excellent birding along the road above Mauro Sako. From Sungai Penuh, take the Tapan bus as far as Mauro Sako (the journey takes c. 3 hrs). It is possible to come from Padang (9 hrs) and alight there on the way to Sungai Penuh. A very cheap and simple room can be rented next to the roadside restaurant in the village, but it is advisable to bring your own food for your stay.

The endemic birds can, with luck, be seen in only a day. One way of doing this, depending on weather, is to spend dawn birding uphill from the village for an hour, then catch a bus or hitch on a passing truck (regular and easy) to two small stores on a bend about one hour's slow drive up the road. These are currently some of the first road-side buildings you come across, though deforestation is opening up several areas close by. The pass is not far away, from where it is possible to see Sungai Penuh in the valley below. From these stores, it is a long walk back down to Mauro Sako (8-9 hrs), but there is good birding and excellent scenery, and although traffic is mostly light it is always possible to hitch a ride.

Birds

Above Keresek Tua on Gunung Kerinci there are various forest-floor specialities to watch out for: **Red-billed Partridges**^E *Arborophila rubrirostris* are reasonably common, but sometimes difficult to find. They can be seen at any altitude from the lower edge of the forest at c. 1,800 m upwards, but seem easiest high up especially above the first shelter at c. 2,400 m. **Bronze-tailed Peacock-Pheasants**^E *Polyplectron chalcurom* are most frequently encountered near the forest edge. The best area is the short 'tunnel' of bushes and thick understorey at the entrance to the forest itself



Gunung Kerinci



Blue-tailed
Trogon
*Harpactes
reinwardtii*
by
Joe Tobias

where individuals regularly creep along the path at dawn and dusk. **Salvadori's Pheasant**^E *Lophura inornata* was rediscovered on Kerinci in 1986⁵. It is commonest at the lower end of the trail, but has been recorded up into mid-altitude forest^{2,13} at c. 2,200 m. All of these Galliformes are almost always seen on trails because the surrounding vegetation is quite dense.

There are two other endemic species normally seen only when flushed from the path. **Shiny Whistling-Thrush**^E *Myiophonus melanurus* is common and noisy, but a sighting of the elusive **Schneider's Pitta**^E *Pitta schneideri* can be the highlight of a trip to the park. The pitta was thought to be possibly extinct until it was rediscovered on Kerinci in 1988⁴. It is usually very difficult to observe, but visits in the dry season seem to have been most successful: five sightings of three individuals in June² and eight sightings of five individuals in July¹⁴. Though this impressive species rarely calls at this time of year, the population is at its most dense after the breeding season. Adults and young birds seem to forage fairly frequently on paths. The bird is quite shy and flushes at long range, flying rather than running, but usually only for about five metres, often landing at head height and freezing. A good bearing on where the pitta lands can lead to stunning views. Most individuals are seen near the forest edge (c. 1,800 m), but they can be encountered as high as the first shelter (c. 2,400 m).

Rusty-breasted Wren-Babblers^E *Napothera rufipectus* are fairly common in the undergrowth of lower forest, whilst the curious **Long-billed**

Wren-babbler *Rimator malacoptilus* is more difficult to find, skulking in dense tangles towards the forest edge; both species respond vigorously to 'pishing'. The beautiful **Blue-masked Leafbird**^E *Chloropsis venusta* should be searched for in the canopy of the small patch of forest around the Letter-W waterfall.

The little-known **Sumatran Cochoa**^E *Cochoa beccarii* is rarely seen at Gunung Kerinci but this is the only site where it has been recorded recently, with observations in 1993¹ and 1994¹³ (see pp.49-52). Because it is a canopy-dwelling frugivore, locating and watching a fruiting tree anywhere on the mountain, mainly in mid-level forest at c. 2,200 m, will provide the best chance of glimpsing this stunning bird.

Other interesting species from Kerinci's forest include **Rufous Woodcock** *Scolopax saturata* (sometimes flushed from trails or from stream-beds at mid-level and high altitude), **Sumatran Green-Pigeon** *Treron oxyura* (in lower forest; possibly nomadic), **Pink-headed Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus porphyreus*, **Rajah Scops-Owl** *Otus brookii* (around the base of the main trail; outnumbered by **Mountain Scops-Owl** *O. spilocephalus*), **Barred Eagle-Owl** *Bubo sumatranus*, **Waterfall Swift**

Hydrochous gigas (regular during the dry season at Letter-W waterfall), **Blue-tailed Trogon** *Harpactes reinwardtii* (fairly common at lower elevations), **Sunda Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina larvata* (most altitudes), **Sunda Minivet** *Pericrocotus miniatus* (outnumbered by **Grey-chinned Minivet** *P. solaris*), **Orange-spotted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus bimaculatus* (high up by first shelter), **Sunda Bulbul** *Hypsipetes virescens* (common at lower elevations), **Sunda Laughingthrush** *Garrulax palliatus* (fairly common at mid-altitude), **Sunda Robin** *Cinclidium diana* (regular in lower forest), **Lesser Forktail** *Enicurus velatus* (Letter-W waterfall), **Sunda Warbler** *Seicercus grammiceps* and **Sunda Bush-Warbler** *Cettia vulcania* (both common), while **Large-billed Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis caerulatus* has been recorded once². **Rufous-vented Niltava** *Niltava sumatrana* is endemic to the mountains of the Malay peninsula and Sumatra. It is inconspicuous, but can be found in the forest undergrowth at higher altitudes around and above the first shelter.

The forests above Mauro Sako are considerably lower in altitude than those on the slopes of Gunung Kerinci. A good variety of birds can be seen from the road near Mauro Sako including

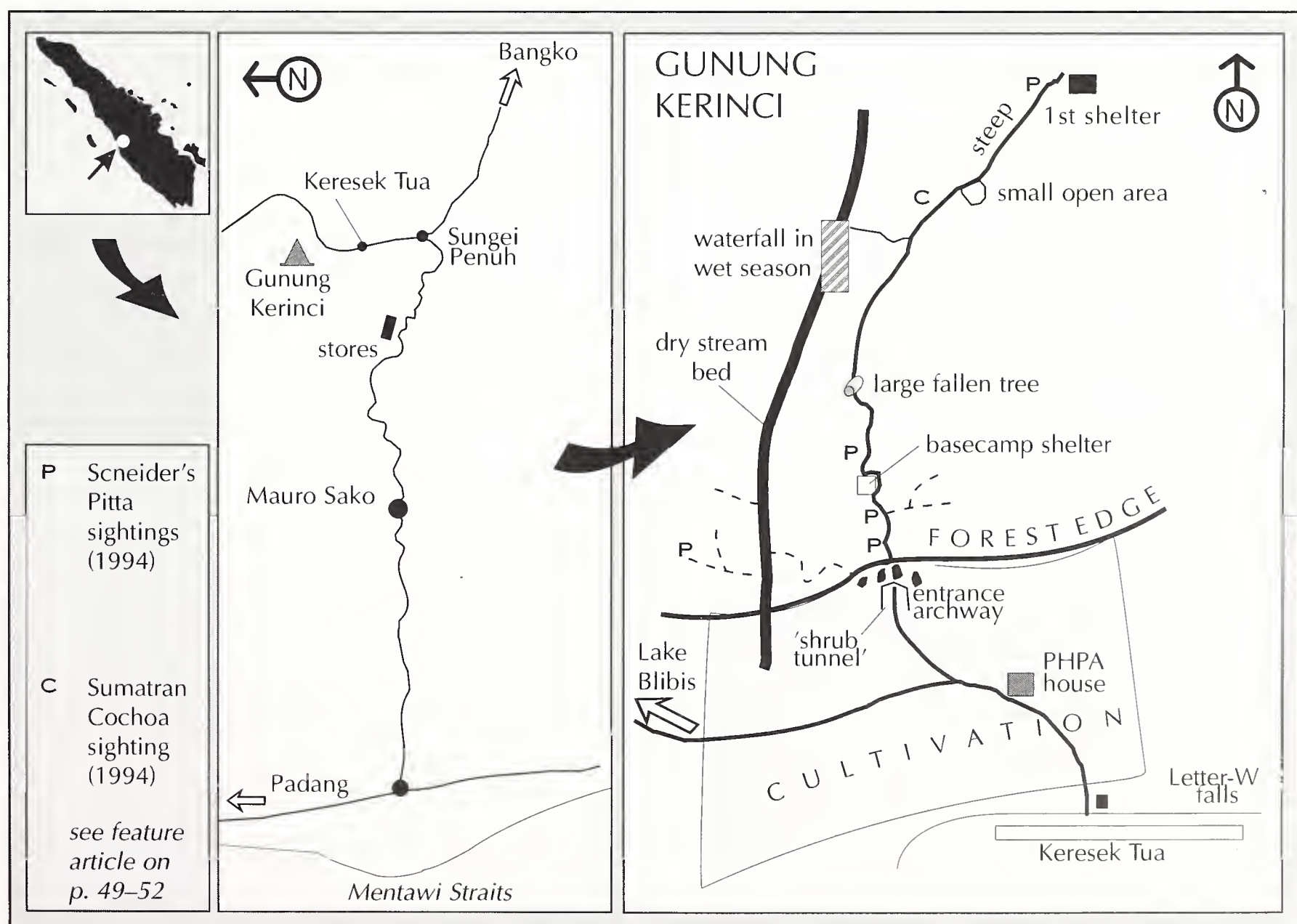


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Gunung Kerinci, and some of the trails mentioned in the text.

species belonging to the Malay and Sundaic avifauna, such as **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle** *Spizaetus alboniger*, **Great Argus** *Argusianus argus*, **Blue-tailed Trogon**, **Banded Kingfisher** *Lacedo pulchella*, and **Helmeted Hornbill** *Buceros vigil*. **Blue-masked Leafbirds**^E forage in the canopies of fruiting and flowering trees, often with small mixed flocks of leafbirds and spiderhunters. It does not occur lower down towards the village but is found around the two high stores. At slightly lower altitudes, two attractive endemic bulbuls, **Cream-striped Bulbul**^E *Pycnonotus leucogrammicus* and **Spot-necked Bulbul**^E *Pycnonotus tympanistrigus* can be found in small, noisy sub-canopy flocks. They are fairly common and should be encountered within a few kilometres downhill of the stores. **Sumatran Drongos**^E *Dicrurus sumatranus* are regular in mixed-species flocks about half-way down to the village. **Lesser Forktails** are also frequent anywhere along the road.

Other endemics

Sumatran Treepie *Dendrocitta (formosae) occipitalis* is included under **Sunda Treepie**^{6,8,12} but Madge and Burn⁷ treat it as a full species. There has been some confusion regarding the taxonomy of the **Garnet Pitta** complex of Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo. The latest reappraisal¹¹ treats **Graceful Pitta** *Pitta venusta* as a Sumatran endemic separate from **Garnet Pitta** *Pitta granatina* and **Black-crowned Pitta** *P. (granatina) ussheri*. **Graceful Pitta** has been collected in Kerinci valley¹¹. *Myiophonus (glaucinus) castaneus* is included under **Sunda Whistling-Thrush** *M. glaucinus* by most authorities, but it is vocally, morphologically and behaviourally different^{3,13}, and certainly merits further taxonomic study. On Kerinci it seems to prefer streams and canopies, often being recorded along or above the dry stream-bed, or at the bridge two kilometres beyond the Letter-W waterfall; it is never seen on the main trail.

Of Sumatra's 14 mainland endemics¹², 11 are mentioned above. **Short-tailed Frogmouth**^E *Batrachostomus poliophus*, separated from **Bornean Frogmouth** *B. mixtus* of Borneo¹², is a rare and little-known species that should theoretically occur in the park. However, **Sumatran Pheasant**^E *Lophura hoogerwerfi*, and **Rueck's Blue-Flycatcher**^E *Cyornis ruckii* are the only mainland Sumatran endemics that definitely cannot be found there. The pheasant inhabits the northern Barisan range and is possibly a race of *L. inornata*⁶; the blue-flycatcher has not been observed since it was collected at the northern tip of the island in 1918¹.



*Red-billed
Partridge
Arborophila
rubrirostris* by
Joe Tobias

Hence, with much skill and luck, virtually all of Sumatra's endemic birds can be seen during a visit to the park. **Vanderbilt's Babbler**^E *Malacocincla vanderbilti* which was known from one skin and given specific status by most checklists and field guides has recently been shown to be a synonym of *Malacocincla sepiarium barussana*⁹.

Still more potential Sumatran endemics are **Stresemann's Scops-Owl** *Otus stresemanni*⁶ and **Buettikofer's Babbler** *Pellorneum buettikoferi*⁶. The only specimen of the owl (admittedly a dubious species) derives from Kerinci-Seblat National Park. It was collected just below 1,000 m in the Kerinci valley¹ and should be looked for in forests of that altitude and the babbler below 1,000 m. All these (could) occur in the park. Some challenging discoveries await to be made.

Mammals

An orange morph of **Banded Langur** *Presbytis femoralis* is the most obvious primate at the two sites, though **Siamang** *Hylobates syndactylus* and **Agile Gibbon** *H. agilis* can be heard and sometimes seen at Mauro Sako. All areas abound with various squirrels and tree-shrews. **Malayan Tapir** *Tapirus indicus*, **Asian Elephant** *Elephas maximus*, **Sumatran Rhinoceros** *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* and **Tiger** *Panthera tigris sumatrae* are all still relatively common in the park, though very difficult to find. Even more elusive is a four foot tall bipedal primate reported from the park. If this curious ape hominid, known as Orang Pendek, is proven to exist the area will certainly attract worldwide attention.

Opportunities

The two areas described above have been the sites traditionally visited by birders. The park is huge, however, and the opportunities for exploration are endless. Forest on the Bangko-Sungai Penuh road would be worth investigating, as would

forested peaks other than Kerinci. Anyone intent on finding and studying Sumatra's endemic birds, or spending time birding in a magnificent and peaceful landscape, is well advised to make for Kerinci-Seblat National Park.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Subandi family for their generosity and hospitality during my stay in Keresek Tua. Also, Bas van Balen and Paul Jepson, of the BirdLife Indonesia programme, deserve thanks for assistance during my stay in Indonesia, and Laura Phelps for companionship in the field.

References

1. Collar, N. J., Crosby, M. J. and Stattersfield, A. J. (1994) *Birds to watch 2 - the world list of threatened birds*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.
2. Heath, P. (1991) Greater Sundas 1991. Unpublished (birdwatching) report.
3. Higgins, N., Morris, P. and Lewis, A. (1989) West Indonesia 1989 - Sumatra, Java and Bali. Unpublished (birdwatching) report.
4. Hurrell, P. (1989) Schneider's Pitta rediscovered in Sumatra. *Kukila* 4: 53-56.
5. Lambert, F. R. and Howes, J. R. (1989) A recent sighting of Salvadori's Pheasant. *Kukila* 4: 56-58.
6. MacKinnon, J. and Phillipps, K. (1993) *A field guide to the birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali*. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.
7. Madge, S. and Burn, H. (1993) *Crows and Jays*. London: Christopher Helm.
8. van Marle, J. G. and Voous, K. H. (1988) *The birds of Sumatra: an annotated checklist*. London: British Ornithologists' Union (Checklist no. 10).
9. Mees, G. F. (1995) On *Malacocincla vanderbilti* de Schauensee & Ripley, and *Malacocincla perspicillata* (Bonaparte) (Aves, Timaliidae). *Proc. Kon. Ned. Akad. v. Wetensch.* 98: 63-68.
10. Redman, I. (1995) Eastern primate promise: evidence mounts for new bipedal ape. *B.B.C. Wildlife* 13(3): 13.
11. Rozendaal, F. (1994) Species limits within Garnet Pitta-complex. *Dutch Birding* 16: 239-245.
12. Sibley, C. G. and Monroe, B. L. (1990) *Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
13. Simpson, W., Cross, L. and Warne, J. (1994) West Java and Sumatra - Indonesia. Unpublished (birdwatching) report.
14. Tobias, J. A. and Phelps, L. (1994) Sumatra, Java and Bali 1994. Unpublished (birdwatching) report.

Joe Tobias, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 1HL, U.K.

A copy of Tobias and Phelps (1994) is available from this address (40 page plus maps, at a cost of £6.00, including post and packaging; any profits go to the Oriental Bird Club Conservation Fund).

Hong Kong Bird Report 1993



220pp. 43 colour plates

Status of B-f Spoonbill and Chinese Merganser

Weather and bird migration through HK

Id of Locustellas and juv. terns

Full systematic list for 1993

Available from:

(in UK) S. Anstruther, Barlavington Estate 3, Petworth, W. Sussex GU28 OLG.

£12.50 (+ £1.00 to Europe)

(in HK) HKBWS, GPO Box 12460, Hong Kong.

HK\$170 (surface); HK\$190 (air)

* SPECIAL OFFER: 1992 and 1993 Reports for £20.00



Recently published

Pheasant jungles by William Beebe. World Pheasant Association, 1994. 248pp. £19.95 (hb).

For American members of OBC, William Beebe will need no introduction. Born in New York in 1877, he was one of the United States' leading field ornithologists this century, an early ecologist and a pioneer in the study of deep-sea marine life. The new publisher's forward to this long out-of-print and highly regarded example of his work claims that the 'great naturalist/scientists have often supplemented formal publication of their findings with more popular accounts of their travels and adventures in the field'.

In the case of Beebe, however, this understates his achievement. He was both a serious scientist and also a successful populariser of natural history, publishing numerous narrative accounts of his field trips. At the same time, his contribution to 'formal' literature included *A monograph of the Pheasants*, which ran to four volumes and is one of the century's most outstanding and enduring ornithological works, remaining in print more than 70 years after initial publication.

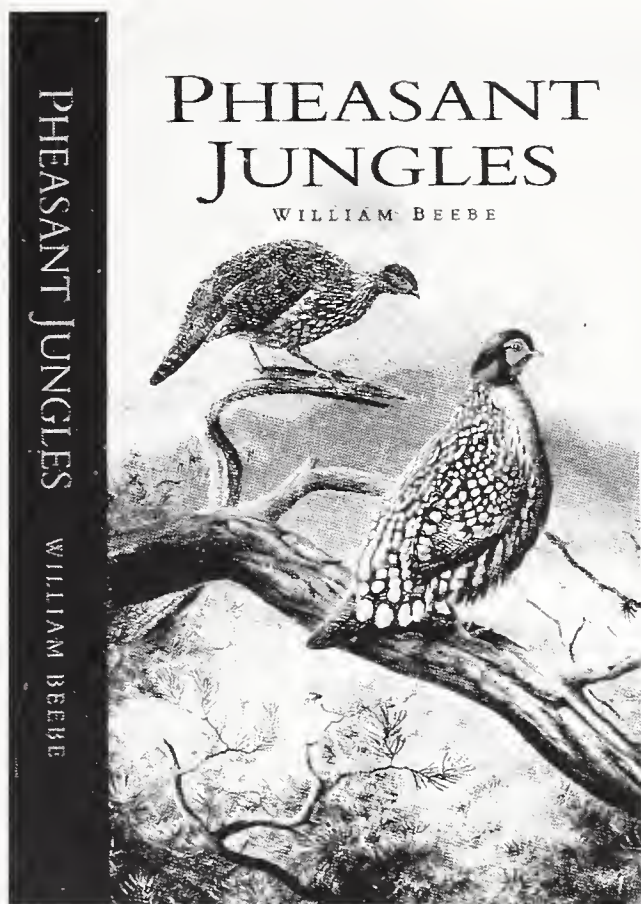
Pheasant jungles, an example of Beebe's imaginative writing on wildlife, describes his travels during the research for the *magnum opus* on Galliformes. The support of a wealthy sponsor enabled him to journey for eighteen months through Sri Lanka, the Indian Himalayan ranges east and west of Nepal, towards the Tibeto-Burmese border, and then on into Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo. Although he embarked on the journey in 1909, when he was 32 and curator of birds at the New York Zoological Society, the book itself was not published until 1927.

Reading *Pheasant jungles*, one is struck by the immense chasm that now separates the experiences of contemporary birders in Asia from those of William Beebe. Momentous changes, both for the better and the worse, have occurred in Asia in the last 70 years and these, made apparent through Beebe's descriptions, invest the book with a great deal of its interest. The positive developments are clearest when one considers the author's varied encounters with the peoples of Asia.

All the countries he visited were then under British rule and Beebe not only availed himself of the abundant privileges of the 'white man', but lapsed readily into the standard attitudes of colonialism. Throughout his tour the menial work was all done for him by an army of servants. In the more remote areas, he dismissed the local people as 'savages'. In Burma he wrote with sweeping certainty that 'the natives are in all ways of an exceedingly low order'. On one occasion he happily translated his low opinion into action, shooting and killing a Burmese man who, he claimed, was firing poisoned darts at his tent.

Yet, at other times, the author could display a more rounded and nuanced approach to racial matters, such as when he squirms with shame as a British missionary thrusts Christian tracts into the hands of Tibet's Dalai Lama. It is also interesting to note - since it is such a prominent element of the book - that, throughout, Beebe strives to portray his many servants with individuality and sensitivity. This, incidentally, was far from typical. One need only glance at *China - Tibet - Assam* (1944) by Frederick Bailey, (a British ornithologist travelling at the same time in many of the same areas) to recognise the singularity of Beebe's approach.

As well as informing us of where we have gained, *Pheasant jungles* also makes abundantly clear what we have lost. This is most obvious when Beebe turns to the pheasants themselves. Most striking is the astonishing richness, frequency and variety of his sightings. He saw Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* building its nest. He was so close to Sclater's Monal *Lophophorus sclateri* - the first European ever - that while it was foraging it flicked earth in his eyes. He was sitting so quietly next to a hen Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* on her seven eggs that a Himalayan Black Bear mooched unseeing past them both. Other species, now all Red Data Book birds, such as White Eared-pheasant *Crossoptilon crossoptilon*, Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* and Crested Argus *Rheinardia ocellata* - he noted almost incidentally, and altogether he described over fifteen species and



rates.

These sightings testify to the extraordinary pristine forests Beebe was able to reach, as well as the almost unbelievable abundance of Asian Galliformes earlier this century. It is these accounts of the pheasants that will most appeal to OBC members and it is in these descriptions of his field experiences that Beebe's writing is at its best. Take just one short snippet on Mountain Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron inopinatum*:

'One of the adult birds stepped into a spot of full sunlight, the last which penetrated the foliage from the setting sun, and for a moment fluffed out every feather. The wings were lowered, the tail spread, and thus for a full minute did the splendid bird do homage to the last rays of the sun. The gray head and breast were alive with the tiny white spots which showed as living sparks in the sunlight. Each feather of the rich rufous upper plumage seemed consciously aglow through its individual eye, as if it could see itself reflected in the gorgeous mirrors of the tail. These long tapering feathers were spread apart and their surfaces changed from green to violet, then to purple and back to emerald again as the angle shifted.'

In his day Beebe was accused of overloading his descriptions of wildlife with emotion and drama. In an age virtually bereft of good imaginative writing on nature, especially birds, Beebe's sonorous prose is surely an indulgence we can afford. Anybody who has ever spent long frustrating hours searching for pheasants in Asian forests cannot fail to respond to this book.

Mark Cocker

Ornithology of the Indian subcontinent 1872-1992, an annotated bibliography by Charles G. Burg, Bruce M. Beehler and S. Dillon Ripley. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 1994. 330 pp. US\$ 20. ISBN 0 9644592 0 5.

This work contains 5,758 citations of publications on birds of the Indian subcontinent, many of which are annotated with information on the topics covered. The publications involved include books and reports, and papers from over 70 journals, foremost amongst which are the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* and *Stray Feathers*. This latter journal ceased publication in 1888 but contains much of relevance and interest to birdwatchers today.

An index of taxa, topics and regions provides a means of locating references of interest to the user, but it is based solely on the titles and annotations; one cannot, therefore, extract a list of all publications that include information on a particular species.

The introduction implies that this is a comprehensive compilation for the region, but a similar exercise in preparation for India by the reviewer already has 8,750 citations for that country alone (including 400 dated prior to 1872, 400 post-1992 and a couple of hundred unpublished items; however, it does not include papers which are purely anatomical, physiological or parasitological in nature). One of the main reasons for the difference in number of citations is the almost complete lack of reference to the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, a publication that has been running since 1961 and regularly includes many interesting papers and notes on the birds of India.

An analysis of the citations for the state of Orissa, using the index, showed that of the 23 reference numbers in the index, four were incorrectly ascribed to Orissa; without difficulty I found 16 other citations specifically mentioning Orissa that were not indexed as such, and from other sources I found 19 relevant citations that are lacking in the bibliography, 13 of which are from the *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*. The index is clearly incomplete despite being prepared from an electronic database.

A number of errors and inconsistencies were noted in the citations (e.g. wrong page numbers and an author listed in different places because of different versions of his name) but these detract

only slightly from the usefulness of this work. It should be a valuable reference tool for students of the region's birds and is thoroughly recommended. I hope the publishers will consider also providing it in an electronic format which would allow far easier access to the vast amount of information it contains.

Tim Inskipp

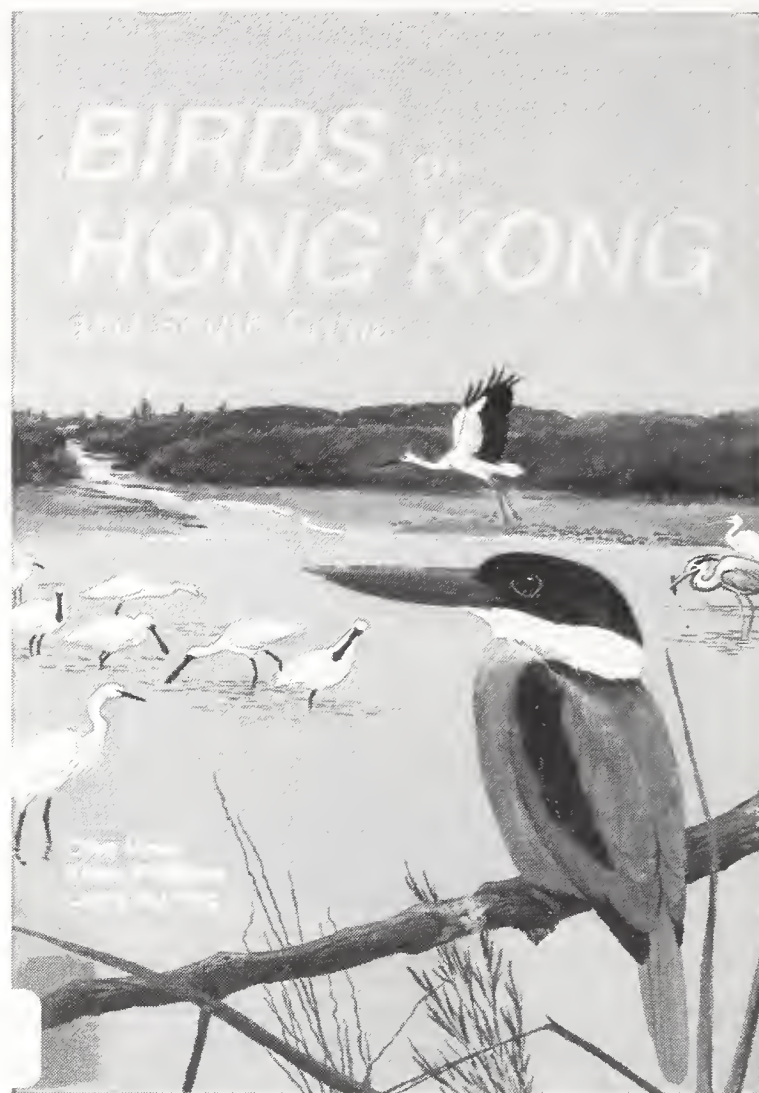
Birds of Hong Kong and South China by Clive Viney, Karen Phillipps and Lam Chiu Ying. Sixth edition, 1994. Government Information Services. 244 pp., HK\$164 (£19.99 from NHBS) (sb), HK\$240 (hb).

This attractive, pocket-sized field guide covers all of the birds recorded from Hong Kong and South China. It is described as the sixth edition of a book first published in 1977, but is in fact so completely revised that it is very different to the previous editions. The new plates by Karen Phillipps are both attractive and accurate, and, despite the small format of the book, several plumages are illustrated where necessary for many species. The species texts are generally adequate, and incorporate the major advances in the field identification of many groups which have taken place in recent years, but in some cases more detail would be helpful. The introduction includes a useful section on where to watch birds in Hong Kong.

About 550 species are covered in detail, with brief information on a further 120, a total of about 46% of the avifauna of China. All the species which occur in South-East China are covered, and the vast majority of those which occur in the north-east of the country, so this guide will be useful for visitors to Beidaihe and the Beijing area.

The introduction mentions the dramatic changes in land-use which are taking place in Hong Kong and in many parts of southern China. The observations by birdwatchers in Hong Kong are perhaps the best records of the resulting changes in the region's avifauna. For example, in recent years there have been some remarkable influxes of globally threatened waterbirds into Hong Kong, notably of Oriental Storks *Ciconia boyciana*, perhaps indicating that all is not well in the places where they normally winter in southern China.

Lam Chiu Ying is working on a Chinese edition of the book, commissioned by the

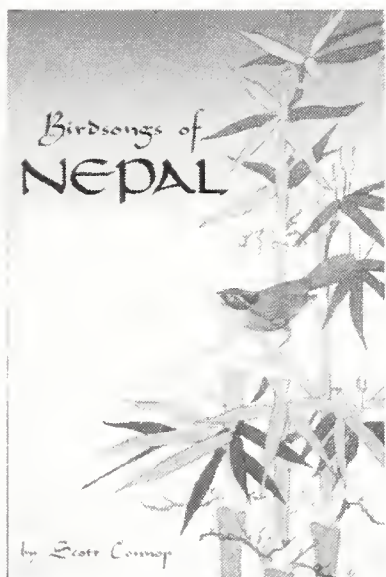


Government Information Services of Hong Kong, which will be the first modern field guide available to Chinese ornithologists. There is an urgent need to generate popular interest in wild birds and their conservation in China, and hopefully this Chinese edition will play an important role.

Mike Crosby

Birdsongs of Nepal by Scott Connop. Produced by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Library of Natural Sounds, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. One cassette and accompanying sleeve notes (price in U.K.: £10.95 plus postage and packing from WildSounds).

This represents the first commercially available cassette of bird songs from Nepal. The recordings were made in the Kathmandu Valley, the Royal Chitwan National Park and in the lower Apsuwa valley near the Arun River, 60 km south-south-east of Mount Everest. The latter site was visited as part of an expedition, the results of which are published in *Forktail* 8. Although only covering 66 species, Scott Connop has deliberately concentrated on the more unobtrusive ones whose song and calls are often the only clue to their presence in an area. There are excellent cuts of Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola*, Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra*, two species of tesia, and many other skulking babbler and flycatcher species.



Although this can be regarded as only an introduction to the bird songs of Nepal, the recordings are all of a good quality and the narration accurate and succinct. Any birder travelling to the Himalayas would be well advised to purchase a copy. Incidentally, the cover mentions Nepal's two endemic species, of which the surprisingly rich vocalist, Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis*, is featured. Birders should keep a sharp eye (or ear) out for the second - Nepal Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata*. Its two nearest relatives, Scaly-breasted *Pnoepyga albiventer* and Pygmy Wren-Babblers *P. pusilla* are both featured on the tape, so look and listen carefully!

Peter Morris

Jungles of Borneo

Recorded by Remy Bruckert, selected and mixed by Thierry Gaultier and published by Sittelle, Rue des Jardins, 38710 MENS - FRANCE. Compact Disc, or cassette (price in U.K.: CD £10.99, cassette £6.95 plus postage and packing from WildSounds).

Running to just over seventy-three minutes playing time, this compact disc presents ten natural 'concerts' recorded in a variety of habitats in national parks throughout Sabah, Sarawak and Kalimantan. Each of the ten 'concerts' (including

two nocturnal recitals) are presented as a single piece. Within each 'concert', the more prominent vocalists have been identified by way of numbered cuts on the CD player, thus allowing the listener to identify some of the more distinctive sounds as well as giving instant access to favourite calls. The presentation and sleeve information is most informative, allowing the listener to conjure up an image of the settings for each of the 'concerts', and the front sleeve painting is most attractive. Most of the disc manages to drown out the incessant insect noise, a problem which anyone who has attempted to make recordings in this part of the world will be only too aware of! Unfortunately, the description of the geographical location of Borneo has been mis-translated (all the directions reversed!). I personally found it quite difficult to decipher some of the indexed calls, and a written transcription of them may have helped listeners to pick out the otherwise indistinct sounds. However, that aside, the disc achieves what it sets out to do – to bring the wonderful rainforest ambience into our living rooms.

Peter Morris



The French magazine for birdwatchers

- Status, Identification and Ecology of the Birds of France and WP • Annual Report of French Rarities Committee (CHN) • Report of Rare Breeding Birds in France • Birding Spots in France and WP • News about birdwatching and birds in France and WP • Mystery Bird.

**Now quarterly
and in full colour**

**Please contact : Ornithos, LPO, BP 263,
F-17305 ROCHEFORT Cedex (France)**

Free Press

Compiled by Guy Dutson



This feature aims to publicise papers and reports of interest to members. If anyone has written or knows of recent publications worthy of inclusion in this feature, please send details to the OBC for future bulletins.

REGIONAL

Morphometrics of falconets and hunting behaviour of the Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius* by A. C. Kemp (Dept of Birds, Transvaal Museum, P.O. Box 413, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa) and T. M. Crowe *Ibis* 136: 44-49. Cluster and factor analyses of morphometrics related to the foraging techniques of small falcons.

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Ornithology of the Indian Subcontinent 1872-1992: an annotated bibliography by C. G. Burg, B. M. Beehler and S. D. Ripley (available for US \$20 from Office of the Secretary Emeritus, NHB 336 MRC 114, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, USA). 5,700 references in 330 pages.

Harriers in the Velavadar National Park by S. A. Akhtar (The Editor, Raptor, High Kelton, Doctors Commons Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3DW, U.K.) *The Raptor* 1994/5: 51-56. Over 2,000 harriers have roosted here.

The distribution, status and conservation of the Nicobar Megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis* by R. Sankaran (Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Kalampalayam PO, Coimbatore 641 010, India). *Biol. Conserv.* 72: 17-25. Whilst threatened by coastal development, an estimated 4,500 to 8,000 birds survive.

First record of a Black Noddy *Anous minutus* from Sri Lanka by R. I. de Silva (31 Dampe Road, Madapatha, Piliyandala, Sri Lanka) *Loris* 19: 175-176.

First record of a Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* from Sri Lanka by R. I. de Silva (address above) *Loris* 19: 195-196.

Shearwater migration off the coast of Sri Lanka by R. I. de Silva (address above) and L. Perera *Loris* 20: 97-100. Flesh-footed Shearwaters *Puffinus carneipes*.

CHINA

The Scaly-sided Merganser *Mergus squamatus* in Russia and China edited by B. Hughes and J. Hunter (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT, U.K.). *Threatened Waterfowl Research Group Special Publication* 1. Biology and status reviewed in five papers.

Bemerkungen zu Biologie, Stimme und Verwandtschaft der Weissbrauenmeise (*Parus superciliosus*) by J. Martens (Institut für Zoologie, Saarstrasse 21, D(W) - 6500 Mainz, Germany) and A. Gebauer. *Zool. Abh. Mus. Tierkd. Dresden* 47: 213-222. Calls and breeding data for the White-browed Tit.

Re-evaluation of the taxonomic status of *Phylloscopus goodsoni* Hartert by P. Alström et al. (Kungsgatan 3, 462 33 Vänersborg, Sweden) *Bull. B.O.C.* 115: 53-57. Three specimens support reclassification from *P. ricketti goodsoni* to *P. reguloides goodsoni*.

MALAYSIA

An altitudinal study of birds on Gunung Jerai, Kedah by R. Gregory-Smith (c/o Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia) *Malayan Nature Journal* 47: 417-423. Lowland species were recorded at high altitudes perhaps because of a depauperate montane avifauna.

Birds and mammals in mangroves of mainland Kedah by R. Gregory-Smith (address above) *Malayan Nature Journal* 47: 425-430. Notes on 79 bird species.

INDONESIA

Kukila 7(1), published in October 1994, includes: Notes on the avifauna of Bacan, Kasiruta and Obi, north Moluccas by, F. R. Lambert

Birds of Nias and west Sumatran islands, by N. Dymond and D. A. Holmes

Reviews of Abbott's Babbler and Bornean Bristlehead records in Borneo, by C. C. Witt and F. H. Sheldon.

Details from The Editors, *Kukila*, P.O. Box 4087, Jakarta 12040, Indonesia.

On the biology and voice of the Javan Scops Owl *Otus angelinae* by J. H. Becking (*Ericalaan 7, 6703 EM Wageningen, Netherlands*) *Bull. B.O.C.* 114: 211-224. Photographs, contact calls and foraging biology of a family group.

The distribution and status of Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* in Java by S. van Balen (*BirdLife Indonesia, PO Box 310/Boo, Bogor 16003, Indonesia*) *Biol. Conserv.* 71: 289-297. Review of 28 recent and 26 historical sites.

Sumatra, Java and Bali 1994 by J. Tobias (*Dept of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, U.K.*) and L. Phelps. 38-page photocopied trip report and site guide.

Species limits within Garnet Pitta complex by F. Rozendaal (*Akker 113, 3732 XC De Bilt, Netherlands*) *Dutch Birding* 16: 239-245. *Pitta venusta* is split from *P. granatina* (including *P. g. coccinea* and *P. g. ussheri*).

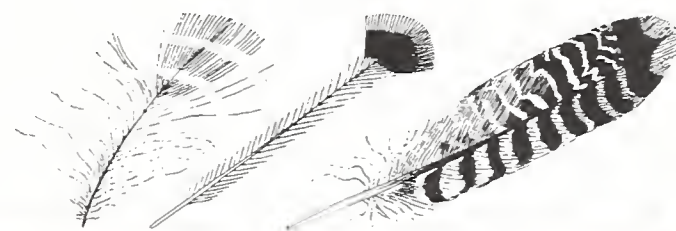
Distribution of Blue Crowned Pigeon *Goura cristata* on north Seram by A. A. Macdonald (*Preclinical Veterinary Studies, Royal School of Veterinary Studies, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH19 1QH, U.K.*) *Bull. B.O.C.* 115: 33-35. Local reports suggest a widespread, if feral, population.

PHILIPPINES

Zur Vogelfauna einiger kleiner philippinischer Inseln by M. Temme (*Alter Horst 18, 26548 Insel Norderney, Germany*) *Seevögel* 15: 71-74. Bird lists for satellite islets off Mindoro.

Notes on the nesting behavior of the White-bellied Woodpecker by A. T. Peterson et al. (*Natural History Museum, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, U.S.A.*) *Wilson Bull.* 107: 182-184. Fifteen hours of observation of a brood close to fledging.

Stray feathers



Leaving a future to Asia's endangered birdlife

A bequest to the Oriental Bird Club would help it maintain a growing commitment to conservation in Asia and ensure that the region's rich birdlife is saved for future generations. For further information on making a bequest to OBC, please write to the Promotions Officer, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, U.K.

VIREO seeks Asian bird slides

Visual Resources for Ornithology (VIREO), the world's largest collection of bird photographs and part of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, is looking for great photographs of Asian birds. The collection currently contains 75,000 photographs in its working collection, representing over 5,200 species, yet many species

from Asia are still missing. VIREO's contributors include photographers from around the world. VIREO's photographs are widely used in publications, educational lectures, and electronic publishing. Photographers receive a 50% royalty on projects in the commercial realm. VIREO is always in search of new photographs and photographers. Its strongest Asian collections are

from India (large species), Philippines (forest birds), Borneo (forest birds), and Malaysia. Many species are missing from these areas and other areas such as the Himalayas are very sparsely represented. Almost any great photograph of an Asian bird would be of interest; photographers who would like to contribute should send a description of what they have to: Doug Wechsler, Director, VIREO, The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103, U.S.A. Tel (215) 299-1069, fax (215) 299-1182.

BirdLife Asia Partnership launches Asian Red Data Book: records wanted

As many OBC members will already know, BirdLife International commenced work on *Threatened birds of Asia* in 1994. The project will result in the third part of the international bird Red Data Book, for which volumes on Africa and the Americas have already been published. This part is being funded by the Japanese Environment Agency through the Wild Bird Society of Japan, and is being prepared under the auspices of the BirdLife Asia Partnership. Workshops drawing together in-country expertise have already been held for South Asia, India and various parts of the Philippines, and others are planned for elsewhere in the Oriental Region during the rest of 1995 and 1996. National coordinators analyse the resulting data and information from other sources.

The Oriental species treated in *Birds to watch 2* are intended to serve as the candidate list for fuller investigation over the course of the next four years. For these species, and also for those listed as near-threatened, Club members and Bulletin readers are urged to send any unusual observations (e.g. records of species beyond their known or recently believed range or elevation) and their notes on status, habitat, feeding, breeding and associated behaviour at any site (not just the unusual ones), along with their assessments of levels of threat and protection at these sites, to Nigel Collar or Mike Crosby (BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, U.K.), who will use or relay the information as appropriate. Please do not assume that your records are of no interest or will be duplicated by others. All contributions, used or not, will be acknowledged in the book, and published material will be attributed to source in the text.

Indonesian photo request

Birding Indonesia by Paul Jepson will be a new addition to the Periplus Indonesia travel guide series in 1996. The series is noted for its high photographic quality and we are looking for outstanding photographs of Indonesian birds. If you have material which you would like to submit please send details or alternatively contact us for our target species list and details of publication rates. Periplus would also be interested to hear from any birders travelling to Indonesia in 1995

who would be willing to check 'practicality' sections. Please contact: Rosie Ounsted, PO Box 310\BOO, Bogor 16003, Indonesia. E-mail 100337.3473@compuserve.com

Operation Wallacea: volunteers wanted for Sulawesi bird survey

The birdlife of the Wallacea region of Indonesia is undoubtedly unique. In Sulawesi alone, 80 of the recorded 330 species of bird are endemic, with the discovery of new species being inevitable as the primary rainforest of this remote island group is further explored. As sea levels have fallen and risen over geological time, the deep oceanic trenches surrounding Wallacea have effectively isolated this region, so enabling its flora and fauna to evolve independently from the neighbouring landmasses of Asia and Australia. Travellers to this area have the chance to see many of the island's endemic species

However, the birds of Wallacea are under severe threat as their rainforest habitat is destroyed and specimens illegally captured to meet the lucrative demand for exotic animals. The loss of species associated with the deforestation is incalculable because many of the areas being cleared have never been surveyed. While the Indonesian authorities recognise the need to conserve their rich and diverse natural resources, they have limited funds to carry out the surveys necessary to identify the most important areas to preserve for wildlife.

Operation Wallacea is a three-year conservation project in Indonesia in which international scientists assisted by volunteers will gather biological data on threatened animal and plant communities and, in doing so, contribute to saving threatened species from extinction. The terrestrial component of this project aims to establish the distribution and status of birds on Buton Island, off the south-east coast of Sulawesi. This information will be entered into the national Indonesian Ornithological Society Atlas Project, known as the 'Kukila database'. The Wallacea Development Institute, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences and the Directorate General of Forestry and Conservation Indonesia are all keen to use this information to set up new wildlife reserves and develop suitable management plans.

Survey teams will comprise one bird scientist, one guide and five volunteers. To ensure the collection of reliable data, all volunteers will undergo training on-location and before departure. While surveying, the teams will live under expedition conditions travelling around Buton Island by 4-wheel-drive vehicles and staying in local villages so as to penetrate the remoter parts of the forest. At least 70% of Buton Island will be covered each year, giving a very good estimate of the distribution and approximate populations of its birds. Team leaders will locate the sighting of each bird using a hand-held global positioning system (GPS), accurate to within 10 m.

Operation Wallacea is a non-profit-making project run under the auspices of the HongkongBank Care for Nature Trust Fund in Singapore, which has provided the initial funding. However, all ongoing costs will need to be met by the revenue generated through volunteers. We hope to demonstrate that tourism in the shape of volunteers conducting wildlife surveys can make not only a significant contribution to Indonesia's scientific survey effort, but can also offer the locals a valuable and sustainable alternative in using their natural resources.

For further information please contact: Dr Julia Yeatman or Dr Phil Davies at Ecosurveys Ltd, Priory Lodge, Hagnaby, Spilsby, Lincolnshire PE23 4BP, U.K. Tel +44 (0)1790 763665, fax +44 (0)1790 763417.

Information on Asian Koel

'We are two biology students who have been working with Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*. During our stay on the Similan Islands in December 1994 and January 1995 we collected data on their social behaviour, abundance and territoriality. We are interested in all kinds of observations on Asian Koel especially from the Similan and Surin Islands in Thailand but also from other parts of South-East Asia. Anything about their seasonal movements, records of nest parasitism (host species), territoriality, pair formation and distribution are appreciated. We will be happy for even the smallest piece of information. Please send your records to Mark Desholm and

Anne Margrethe Wegeberg, Skjoldsvaenge 62, 6500 Vojens, Denmark. Fax 74543867.'

International Symposium on Galliformes

The World Pheasant Association is proposing to hold a symposium on the conservation and sustainable management of all species of partridge, quail, francolin, guinea fowl and pheasant, with special emphasis on those inhabiting the tropical grasslands and forests of South-East Asia. This meeting will be held on 21-28 January 1996, Peninsular Malaysia. The symposium programme is expected to cover the following topics: Galliform species and National Conservation Strategies; Galliform Action Plan project reviews; field techniques for tropical forest projects; population and habitat viability analysis; captive management techniques for hot climates; computer software for captive management projects; use of DNA analyses in taxonomy; case studies (e.g. Sichuan Partridge and Green Peafowl).

Every effort will be made to keep the cost of attending this meeting to a minimum, and to offer as much help as possible through sponsorship to young Asian scientists who wish to contribute. The objective is to hold a major gathering of ecologists, aviculturists, wildlife managers and conservationists with experience or interest in these galliform birds and their habitats.

If you would like to receive more information about this symposium, please contact the

symposium secretariat address as soon as possible: c/o Mrs Jane Clancey, World Pheasant Association, c/o Ashmere, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8NN, United Kingdom. Tel +44 1932 254855, fax +44 1932 253793, e-mail 100326.641@compuserve.com.

Information request on Oriental nuthatches

I am in the process of writing a monograph on nuthatches (Sittidae) for the Poyser series, to be finished later this year. Many nuthatch species are restricted to the Oriental Region, and for some of them hardly any information, let alone recent information, is available on even the most basic facts of habitat, food, nests, or general behaviour. I therefore seek to contact ornithologists that are active in the Oriental Region and would be willing to share unpublished observations with me, or direct me to local publications that would escape standard literature searches. Any help or advice in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I particularly welcome information on *yunnanensis*, *victoriae*, *solangiae*, *oenochlamys*, *azurea*, *magna* and *formosa*. Dr. Erik Matthysen, Department of Biology (UIA), University of Antwerp, B-2610 Wilrijk, Belgium. Tel 03 820 22 63, fax 03 820 22 71, e-mail matthys@uia.ua.ac.be.

Visiting Cebu?

In recent months many birdwatchers have experienced difficulty contacting the local birdwatcher, Perla Magsalay, regarding visiting arrangements for Cebu

Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor* and Black Shama *Copsychus cebuensis*. Perla has recently advised OBC that her new address is as follows: Philippine Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Foundation (PWCF), c/o Cebu Zoo, Capitol Hills, Cebu City 6000. Tel 210604 or, alternatively, a message can be left with Honorary Councillor Joy Young (or her secretary Lot Lot) on tel 92077 or 95731.

Who's been ringing Saunders's and Relict Gulls?

In recent years Korean birders have observed both ringed Relict *Larus relictus* and Saunders's Gulls *L. saundersi* in South Korea, but where they could have been ringed is unknown. On 12 February 1991, one adult and four first winter Relict Gulls were seen on the Nakdong Estuary, each with a metal ring. On 18-19 October 1993, one first-winter Saunders's Gull was seen at Yongjong Island, Kyonggi Province, with a metal ring on its right tarsus. If anybody has any knowledge of any recent ringing of either of these two species that would tie in with the above sightings please contact Colin Poole at OBC.

Records of Galliformes needed

A new project that aims to identify key areas for the conservation of Galliformes has begun at The Open University, U.K. The project has arisen out of the production of three Action Plans being published by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN-The World

Conservation Union, and is receiving continual input from the World Pheasant Association, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and BirdLife International. The first stage of this project is to map the distributions of all partridges, francolins, quails and pheasants throughout the continent. We are not dealing with megapodes or grouse yet. We should be very grateful for any historical and as many contemporary records as possible to build up our locality database. So far this stands at over 2,000 records for Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Palawan and parts of Thailand and Burma (Myanmar). We are very keen to hear of recent reports in any of these countries and will be compiling data from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam during July and August. Information from these latter countries is also keenly sought. We have produced a form which identifies all of the information that we are seeking. Please contact Philip McGowan for copies of this form. Postal address: Biology Department, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, U.K. Tel +44 1908 654071, fax +44 1901 654167, e-mail P.J.K.McGowan@open.ac.uk.

Help wanted with Important Bird Areas and Red Data Book projects in Indonesia

The PHPA\BirdLife-Indonesia Programme is identifying Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Indonesia and compiling information on threatened species for the Asia Red Data

Book. Indonesia is a massive country with enormous bird diversity, consequently the candidate IBA and threatened species lists are long. We appeal to all birders who have visited or plan to visit Indonesia to help us in this task by sending in records and checking candidate IBAs. For lists of candidate species and IBAs and further information on how you can help our conservation efforts in Indonesia, please contact Rudyanto, BirdLife-IP, PO BOX 310\BOO, Bogor 16003, Indonesia. E-mail 0006638762@mcimail.com

Recent publications of the PHPA/Birdlife-Indonesia Programme

The following reports and memoranda are available from BirdLife-IP.

■ The status of *Cacatua goffini* and *Eos reticulata* on the Tanimbar Islands. Report No 1. 27pp, 4 photos, 1 map.

■ The status of *Cacatua sulphurea abbotti* on the Masalembo Islands. Report No 2. 11pp, 2 maps.

■ A rapid status assessment of *Cacatua sulphurea sulphurea* in South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. Report No 3. 13pp, 2 maps.

■ A review of the protected area system on Sumbawa Island, West Nusa Tenggara, in relation to Biodiversity Conservation. Report No 4. 24pp. 5 maps.

■ Summary report of an evaluation of boundaries for a protected area in the Tanimbar Islands, south-east Maluku. Tech. Mem. No 1. 8pp, 3 maps.

■ Priority proposed protected areas for the conservation of global biodiversity in

Indonesia (as identified by the BirdLife Endemic Bird Area approach). Tech. Mem. No. 3. 62pp, 5 maps.

■ A bibliography of Bali Starling literature. Tech. Mem. No 7. Publication prices which cover printing and postage costs are £6.00 (US \$9.00) for reports and £4.00 (US \$7.50) for memoranda, except memorandum no. 6 which costs £7.00 (US \$11.50). For more details on ordering contact Herly Lindswati, BirdLife-IP, PO Box 310\Boo, Bogor 16003, Indonesia.

1995 Selangor Bird Race

The 1995 Selangor International Bird Race will take place on 14-15 October 1995 at Kuala Selangor Nature Park. You can participate as a sponsor or an individual team. For sponsors there is an entrance fee of 3,000 Malaysian Ringgit (c. £750) for which the company name will be carried in all publicity materials. Entrance as an individual team of three or four people costs 500 ringgit (c. £125). The closing date for entry is 30 August. For further information please contact Rajan, Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Jalan Klinik, 45000 Kuala Selangor, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel 0101 603 889 2294 or fax 0101 603 889 4311.

Request for information on birds of paradise

We are currently conducting the data compilation for a monograph on the birds of paradise, to be published as part of Oxford University Press's 'Bird Families of the World' series. We would appreciate receiving unpublished data on

all aspects of the natural history of the birds of paradise. In order to complete comprehensive range maps, we especially desire new distributional records tied to specific localities from little-known or rarely visited areas where these birds live. Anyone who provides new data will be mentioned in the acknowledgements, and particular in-text use of the data will be attributed to the contributor by in-text citation. Naturally, this does not preclude publication elsewhere. Please send records or observations to either Clifford B. Frith, P.O. Box 585 MALANDA 4885, Queensland, Australia, or Bruce M. Beehler, Division of Birds, MRC 116, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

Philippine Birds and South Pacific Birds on Special Offer

Members may wish to take advantage of a special offer on *Philippine Birds* and *South Pacific Birds* (both by John E. duPont). The two publications can be purchased directly from the Delaware Museum of Natural History at US\$20 each (includes US\$5 for postage and packing outside the USA) while payment by credit card is accepted. For more details please contact: Susan Tongue, Administrative Assistant, Delaware Museum of Natural History, Box 3937, Wilmington, DE 19807, U.S.A., Tel: 1-302-658-9111, Fax: 1-302-658-2610.



From the field

Compiled by Mike Crosby

These are largely unconfirmed records covering the period from June 1994 to March 1995. We urge that if they have not already done so, contributors provide full details to the relevant regional organisations in due course.

BANGLADESH

The only notable record during the 1994 monsoon was a Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* on 6 June at Nilddoomoor in the Sundarbans (RH), only the second recent record and the first during the monsoon. However, early 1995 was exceptional, with four new species for Bangladesh and many other unusual records.

At Dhaka Zoo lake, a superb drake Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*, the first for Bangladesh, was found during a wildfowl count on 6-8 January (SR, AK, DJ, PT), with a female on 7 January and 17 February (DJ). A male Falcated Duck *A. falcata* at the same locality from 3 to 16 February was the first for Dhaka (RW, PT, NB). On the coast between Sandip and Hatya in January a Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* was only the third record and 12 Asian Dowitchers *Limnodromus semipalmatus* were a record count (AK, RK). A female Smew *Mergellus albellus* at Halir Haor in north-east Bangladesh on 20 January was another first for the country, and in the same flock of ducks was a male Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*, the fourth record, and a male *Aythya* hybrid of the 'Lesser Scaup' type (presumably a Common Pochard *A. ferina* x Tufted Duck *A. fuligula*), not previously seen in Bangladesh (AK, SR, PT, RW). However, duck numbers were down on the peak numbers of winter 1993 (*Bull. O.B.C.* 17: 49).

At West Bhanugach Forest, a Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* on 23 December was the second record (DJ, MJ), and an influx of rare wintering passerines there, which appeared to follow a period of cold weather in February, included two firsts for Bangladesh on 25 February: a female Rufous-tailed Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* and an immature White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*. Two male and two female Snowy-browed Flycatchers *Ficedula hyperythra* were also found on the same day (DJ, JOM, SOM). Another male Snowy-browed

Flycatcher was in Modhupur Forest on 10 February (RW). At Madhapkhundo waterfall on 24 February, a male Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* was the second record and a male Rufous-bellied Niltava *N. sundara* the fourth record (DJ, JOM, SOM), following the third, another male, on 19 November at Satcheri Forest, Telepara (DJ, RH, NB). An Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* near Sunamganj on 20 February was the third record (JOM).

The marshy grasslands in the north-east produced several Rufous-rumped Grassbirds *Graminicola bengalensis*, the first recent records, at Aila Haor on 20 February and at Tangua Haor on 23 February; also at Tangua Haor on 23 February were numerous Black-browed Reed-Warblers *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*, only the fifth national record, two Spotted Bush-warblers *Bradypterus thoracicus*, the second recent record, one Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*, also the second recent record, and two Pallas's Warblers *L. certhiola*, the fifth and sixth record (DJ, JOM, SOM, PM).

Other birds of note during the period under review included three Black Storks *Ciconia nigra* on the Jamuna at Nagabai on 31 January (PT), Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* at Modhupur Forest on 17 February, the third record (PT, RW), Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* and Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* at Pasua Beel on 21 February, both second records (DJ, JOM, SOM, PM), two Little Crakes *Porzana parva* at Tangua Haor on 22 February, the second record (DJ, JOM, SOM, PM), a Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus* filmed at Juri in the north-east on 24 February, also a second record (DJ, JOM, SOM, PM), and a Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* of a white-headed subspecies at Satcheri Forest on 11 March, the first recent record (DJ, NB). A White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* at Modhupur Forest on 10 December (DJ) and three Long-tailed Minivets *Pericrocotus ethologus* at West

Bhanugach Forest on 25 February (DJ, MJ, JOM, SOM) are the first records of these rare visitors since the mid 1980s.

BHUTAN

A two-week visit early in the year produced a remarkable seven first records for the country (PH), the most notable being three Rusty-capped Fulvettas *Alcippe brunnea* in a feeding flock with Grey-throated Babblers *Stachyris nigriceps* about 12 km north of Phuntsholing on 25 February, which extends the known range of this species about 400 km west from the Dafla Hills in Arunachal Pradesh, India. The other new species were a Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* on a riverside pool at Phuntsholing on 25 February, up to three Red-crested Pochards *Netta rufina* roosting with other ducks on sandbanks in the Sang Chhu just north of Wangdi on 7 March, six Kentish Plovers *Charadrius alexandrinus* at Phuntsholing on 25 February, two Rufous-winged Larks *Mirafra assamica* on riverbanks at Phuntsholing on 25 February, a Dusky Thrush *Turdus naumanni* (intermediate between *eunomus* and *naumanni*) at Nobding near Gangtey on 1 and 5 March and two Purple Sunbirds *Nectarinia asiatica* about 10 km above Phuntsholing on 25 February. A White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis*, on a shingle bank about 6 km south of Tashitang on 28 February, was the third record.

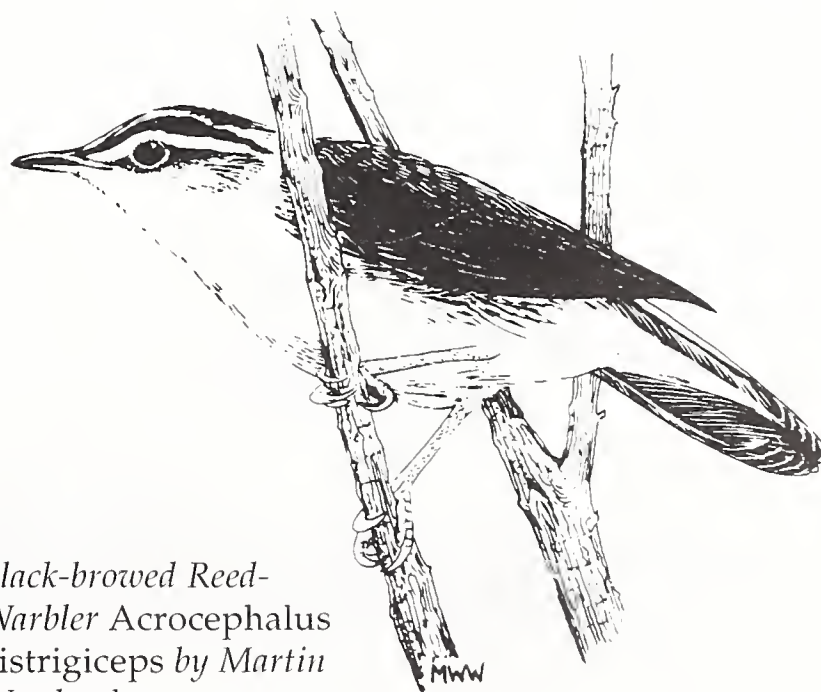
A six-day trek around Zurphe in Zemgang District from 3 March onwards produced two second records, a Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules* and a Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* (RP). A count of 170 Black-necked Cranes *Grus nigricollis* in the valley below Gantey Gompa on 25 November (RM) is also of note.

HONG KONG

The now regular autumn passage of Aleutian Terns *Sterna aleutica* produced 85 in western waters on 1 September and 12 off Cape D'Aguilar on 12 September. Notable autumn migrants were a single Fairy Pitta *Pitta nympha* near Shek Kong on 29 September, a juvenile Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* at East Ping Chau on 8 October, and two Chinese Egrets *Egretta eulophotes* at Mai Po on 22 October. It was an excellent autumn for Pallas's Warblers *Locustella certhiola*, with counts of over 40 at Luk Keng and Long Valley in the second half of September, as well as widespread reports of

Lanceolated Warblers *Locustella lanceolata* throughout October. Several Citrine Wagtails *Motacilla citreola* were found at Long Valley, and at least one appeared to overwinter. Hong Kong's first Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata* was present near Mai Po on 30 September and 1 October, and was considered to be an adult of the race *rama*. This was quickly followed by another warbler first, a Yellow-streaked Warbler *Phylloscopus armandii* trapped at Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre on 16 October; remarkably, four more were subsequently identified, with separate birds at Mount Austin on 30 October and 6 November, one trapped at Mai Po on 26 October and one at Ho Chung on 9 February. A number of indeterminate immature/female Black/Red-headed Buntings *Emberiza melanocephala/bruniceps* have been recorded in recent years, but a bird seen at Mong Tseng on 21 October has been submitted as an adult female Black-headed Bunting, which will be a first if accepted.

The winter proved to be one of the best in recent years for thrushes, robins and chats, with all expected species being well represented. The star bird in January was a Manchurian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus (agricola) tangorum*, trapped at Mai Po on 8 January and still present on 20 January, which is the first winter record of this taxon outside Thailand. The most noteworthy site has been Ng Tung Tsai, which has produced second records for Hong Kong of Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophilata*, Chinese Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis (rubeculoides) glaucicomans* and Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida*, as well as up to five Siberian Thrushes *Zoothera sibirica* and three Slaty-backed Forktails *Enicurus schistaceus*. Mid-winter counts of birds in Deep Bay exceeded



Black-browed Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* by Martin Woodcock

60,000 for the first time and included 19 Dalmatian Pelicans *Pelecanus crispus*, 78 Black-faced Spoonbills *Platalea minor*, 122 Saunders's Gulls *Larus saundersi* and three Oriental Storks *Ciconia boyciana*, as well as a record 6,590 Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Several Great Black-headed Gulls *Larus ichthyaetus* have again been recorded between January and March, as well as small numbers of Slaty-backed *L. schistisagus* and single Kamchatka Gulls *Larus (canus) kamtschatschensis* (all records Hong Kong Bird Watching Society).

INDIA

Notable counts at Harike Bird Sanctuary, Punjab, included a maximum of at least 800 Pale-backed Pigeons *Columba eversmanni* between 8 January and 5 March, and 51 Indian Skimmers *Rynchops albicollis* on 5 March (PU). Four White-browed Bushchats *Saxicola macrorhyncha* were seen in Desert National Park, Rajasthan, on 30 December, and a single bird 30 km east of Jaisalmer on the next day (PU).

A Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* at Port Blair on 21 February and a Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* at Mount Harriet on the same day were both firsts for the Andamans (PH). Two or three Yellow-browed Warblers *Phylloscopus inornatus* of the nominate race were seen at Ooty in winter 1993/94, and further records of two near Ooty on 21 January, five at a different site near Ooty on 10 February and three near Munnar on 14 February confirms their presence in the Western Ghats (PH); this represents a very large range extension from the documented wintering areas.

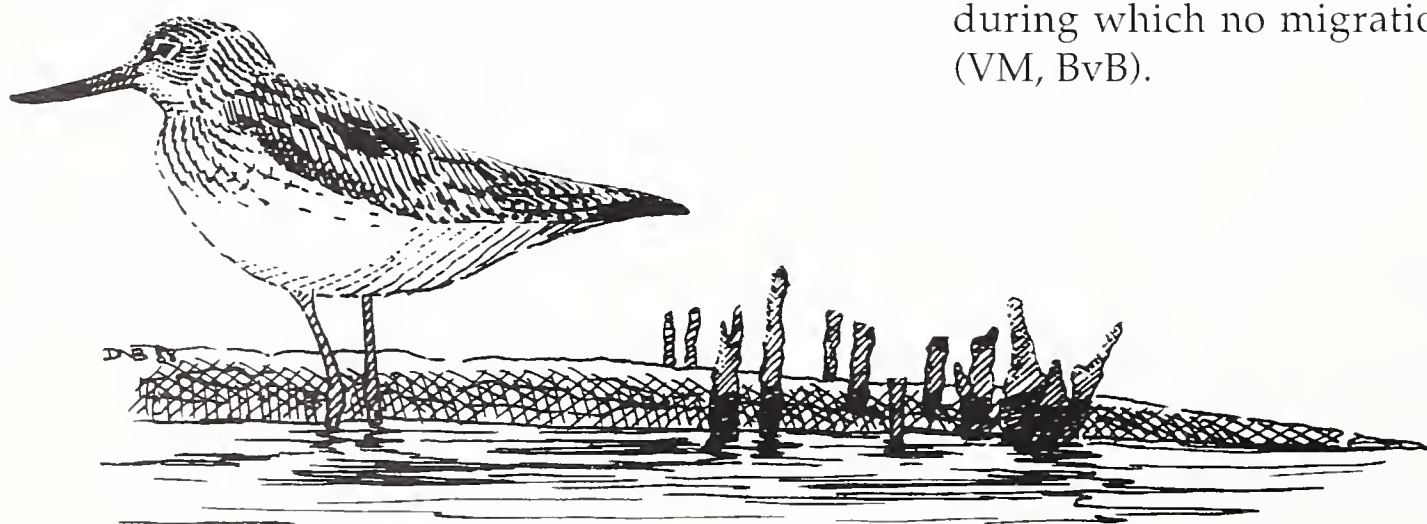
INDONESIA

Alor

A brief visit in mid-December (DH) produced the following new records for the island: Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*, Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*, Pacific Reef-Egret *Egretta sacra*, Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Pacific Golden Plover *P. fulva*, Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Common Greenshank *T. nebularia*, Terek Sandpiper *T. cinereus*, Grey-tailed Tattler *T. brevipes*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*, Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*, Pacific Swallow *H. tahitica*, Tree Martin *H. nigricans*, Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* and Black-faced Munia *Lonchura molucca*, and two or more Lesser Shortwings *Brachypteryx leucophrys* were heard singing. The records of Tree Martin and Lesser Shortwing are particularly interesting, the former because the birds were observed during the Austral summer and were evidently breeding, and the latter because it is a significant range extension of a species which is likely to be resident on the island.

Bali

The four-day pre-breeding census of Bali Starlings *Leucopsar rothschildi* in the Bali Barat National Park, produced counts of 23-29 birds, a decrease since the previous census (BvB, IWAD). On 17 October, seven jaegers *Stercorarius* seen off peninsular Prapat Agung, West Bali National Park, included several Parasitic Jaegers *S. parasiticus* (BvB). A four-day count of raptors crossing the Bali Strait from East Java to Bali resulted in a total of 5,750 birds, mainly Oriental Honey-buzzards *Pernis ptilorhynchos*, Chinese Goshawks *Accipiter soloensis* and Japanese Sparrowhawks *A. gularis*. The peak passage on 15 October followed several days of adverse weather, during which no migration was observed at all (VM, BvB).



Common Greenshank
Tringa nebularia by
Dave Bakerwell

Java

During a visit to the tiny island of Bidadari, Jakarta Bay, on 3-5 November, a number of passing migrant birds were observed, of which the most noteworthy was Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica*, which is rare on Java (BvB). This species was later seen again on the north-west slopes of Mount Pangrango (PJ, MO, RO). On 10 December a single Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* was seen in the Safari gardens near Bogor (BvB).

Kalimantan

A visit to the coastal south-east corner of Central Kalimantan in February produced several interesting records for that part of the island (DH), including Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri*, Australasian Lark *Mirafra javanica*, one of the few records since its discovery in Kalimantan in 1976, Great Tit *Parus major*, Scarlet-headed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trochileum*, Javan White-eye *Zosterops flavus* and Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*.

Lombok

A transit stop at Mataram Airport on 14 November produced several Australian Pratincoles *Stiltia isabella*, but none was seen on the return journey five days later (DH).

Sangihe

A brief visit in mid-March produced one Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*, a probable Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*, one Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (now a regular visitor to Menado on the nearby mainland of Sulawesi), two Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava simillima* in breeding plumage and many Eurasian Tree Sparrows *Passer montanus*, while the most abundant swiftlet on the island was Moluccan Swiftlet *Collocalia infusata*. A northward passage of over 120 accipiters was observed on 17 March, consisting mostly of Chinese Goshawks *Accipiter soloensis*, and the island is considered likely to be a good location for observing raptor (and other) migration between the Philippines and Sulawesi (DH).

Sumbawa

A passage of c. 100 Fork-tailed Swifts *Apus pacificus* near Bima on 17 November adds this island to the list of Lesser Sunda islands (Sumba, Timor, Flores) where this species is now regularly recorded (DH).

Fork-tailed Swift
Apus pacificus
by Martin
Woodcock



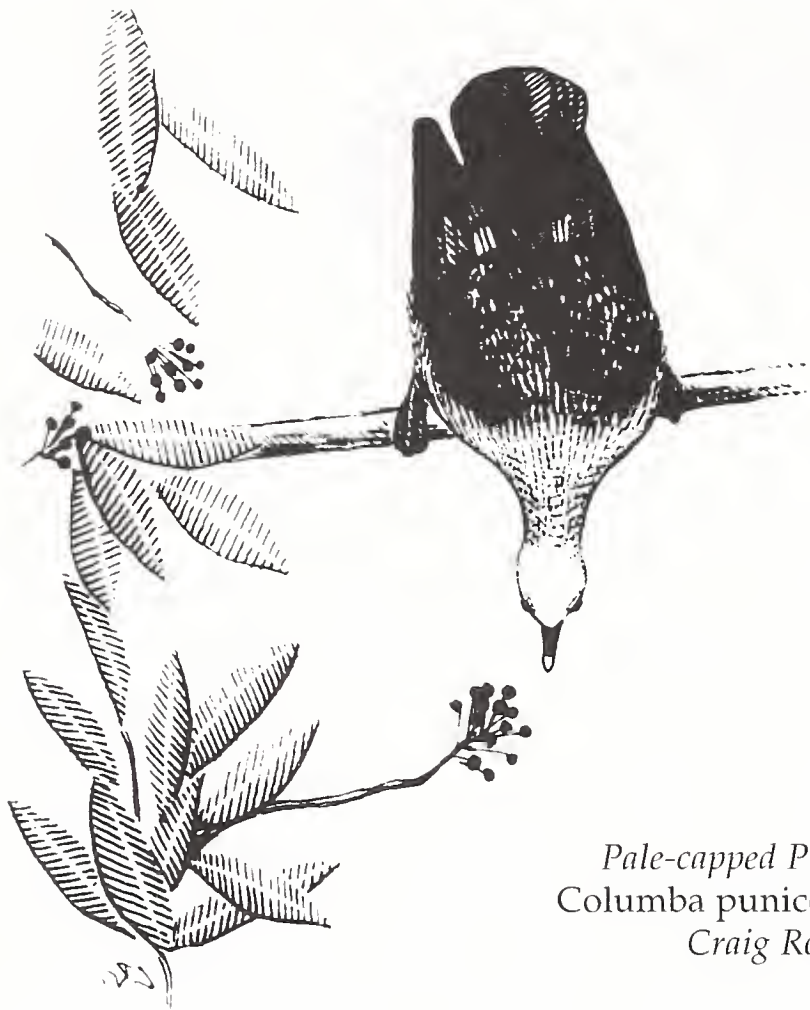
Talaud

A four-day visit in mid-March produced the following new species (DH): Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*, probable Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* flushed from the airport by the observer's plane, two Oriental Pratincoles *Glareola maldivarum* flying north, Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*, Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* and Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

Of the island's endemic taxa, the Red-and-blue Lory *Eos histrio* is still moderately common (in contrast to Sangihe where it may be extinct) but control of trade is believed to be urgently required. Possible sympatry between the Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris* and the endemic Talaud Kingfisher *T. enigma* was not resolved, although both were suspected to be present. The local subspecies of the Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* was found to be locally common, and to have a very distinctive stuttering variant of the usual song. The globally 'near-threatened' Rufous Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*, a Philippine species whose only occurrence in Indonesia is on Talaud, was found to be one of the commonest species of forested areas (DH).

LAOS

In Nam Kading protected area, two Pale-capped Pigeons *Columba punicea* on 7 January and two Long-billed Plovers *Charadrius placidus* present, from late December to mid-January, were both the first recent records for Laos (WD, RT). Single Grey-sided Thrushes *Turdus feae* on 3 and 6 February on the Nakai Plateau were the first records for Laos and Indochina, with two White-winged Ducks *Cairina scutulata*, many Pied Falconets *Microhierax melanoleucos* and several Blyth's Kingfishers *Alcedo hercules* on the same dates (WD).



Pale-capped Pigeon
Columba punicea by
Craig Robson

MALAYSIA

A juvenile vulture captured in January by villagers in a paddyfield at Muar in Johore, and subsequently acquired by the Wildlife Department and taken to Malacca Zoo, was later identified as a Himalayan Griffon *Gyps himalayensis*, the first record for Malaysia (AJ, DW). Two Storm's Storks *Ciconia stormi* seen in flight at Pantl Forest Reserve on 22 January were a new record for both the reserve and south Johore (LKS).

BURMA (MYANMAR)

An immature Pallas's Sea-eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* and an immature Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* were seen together at Moyingye on 16 December (PCR, JCA). Up to four Common Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*, known by few records in Myanmar, were with Brown-headed Gulls *L. brunicephalus* at Inle Lake on 22-27 December (PCR, JCA).

A male Pompadour Green-pigeon *Treron pompadora* near Kalaw on 29 December (PCR, JCA) appears to be the first definite report of this species from the Shan States. Five Pale-capped Pigeons *Columba punicea* were at Hlawga Park, north of Yangon, on 18 December, and there were two there on 6 January (PCR, JCA).

Thousands of Sand Martins *Riparia riparia* were seen at Inle Lake from 22-27 December (PCR,

JCA); there appears to be only one previous record from the Southern Shan States. A flock of about six White-bellied Minivets *Pericrocotus erythropygius* were found at Kyatthin Wildlife Sanctuary on 3 December (PCR).

A Spotted Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus*, apparently of the race *shanensis*, was seen at Inle Lake on 27 December (PCR, JCA), and appears to be the first record of this species for east Burma. Arctic Warblers *Phylloscopus borealis* near Kalaw (PCR, JCA), were also the first records for east Burma.

A female Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* was seen twice in bamboo scrub bordering Inle Lake (at c. 900 m) on 26 December (PCR, JCA), an unusual situation for this species. A female Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* at Taunggyi Crag on 22 December (PCR, JCA) appears to be the second record of this species for Myanmar.

NEPAL

Interesting records included a single Forest Wagtail *Deudonanthus indicus* in sal forest at Udaupur Lal Bhatti, north of Kosi Tappu, on 3 September (BBK). A pair of Rufous-tailed Larks *Ammomanes phoenicurus* at Geta Airport, 10 km north of Dhangadhi, on 31 December is only the second record for Nepal (HSB), and a Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata* at Majhgaon airfield near Suklaphanta on 29 January is the third record (RaM, HBB). Three Blue-winged Laughingthrushes *Garrulax squamatus* were seen at the exceptionally low altitude of 700 m by the Apsuwa Khola at the confluence of the Arun River on 23 November (SB, HSB), and a Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* at 2,400 m on Pulchowki on 12 February (HSB).

PHILIPPINES

The American Cemetery in Manila produced several interesting records: a Black-backed Wagtail *Motacilla lugens* on 3 March (NG) was probably the first record for the Philippines, a Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* on 7 February and 3 March (WS, NG) was the first recorded on Luzon and a Green Racquet-tail *Prioniturus luconensis* present on 3 March (NG) was unusual in this part of the island, but was almost certainly an escaped cage-bird.

SINGAPORE

Four potential new species for the Singapore list were reported during the period: a juvenile Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys* observed feeding in a fruiting tree at Sime Road forest on 19-22 October, a Javan Pond-heron *Ardeola speciosa* at Sungei Buloh Nature Park on 23 October, an immature Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus* at Tuas West on 6 November and a Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* seen swimming in waterlogged grassland, also at Tuas West, on 16-20 November (all records LKS).

SRI LANKA

The annual mass migration of Bridled Terns *Sterna anaethetus* was observed at Colombo between 10 July and 1 October; the intensity of migration was relatively low this year, the highest one-hour counts being 1,271 birds flying south on 21 August and 1,002 on 25 September, lower than previous years when over 3,000 birds have been observed in one hour at the height of the migration. For the second year in succession, Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* has been observed here, six birds flying south on 10 July and 23 on 3 September (RIS).

VIETNAM

Following closely upon the rediscovery of the Grey-crowned Crocias *Crocias langbianis* in early 1994 (*O.B.C. Bull.* 19: 20-23), two more were seen on 22 December at a new locality, the southern end of Tuyen Lam, a reservoir c. 5 km south of Da Lat, in montane broadleaved evergreen forest at c. 1,450 m. Other new records for this site were a pair of Spotted Forktails *Enicurus maculatus* of the Da Lat Plateau endemic subspecies *robinsoni*, two Wire-tailed Swallows *Hirundo smithii* (all records ND) and Collared Laughingthrush *Garrulax yersini* (JC).

Notable records at Cat Tien National Park in late December and early January included two sightings of Mountain Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nipalensis*, Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* and eight plus Eyebrowed Thrushes *Turdus obscurus* (ND). A Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* recorded there on 10 February and at least two Northern House-Martins *Delichon urbica* the following day were both firsts for Cochinchina (CR, BK - KingBird).

A visit to Cuc Phuong National Park (CR, BK - KingBird) produced up to 40 Long-tailed Minivets *Pericrocotus ethologus* on 2 and 4 February, at c. 450 m, a remarkably low elevation and a Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* was seen on 2 February. A White-tailed Robin *Cinclidium leucurum* on 2 and 5 February was also at low elevation, and several Russet Bush-Warblers *Bradypterus seebohmi* on 2-5 February were noteworthy. A flock of 40-50 White-bellied Green-Pigeons *Treron sieboldii* on 5 February is of note, as this species is very scarce in South-East Asia. Single Yellow-vented Green-Pigeon *Treron seimundi* and Short-tailed Scimitar-Babbler *Jabouilleia danjoui* on 5 February are both firsts for East Tonkin (CR, BK - KingBird).

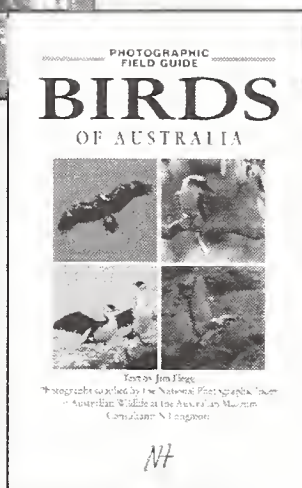
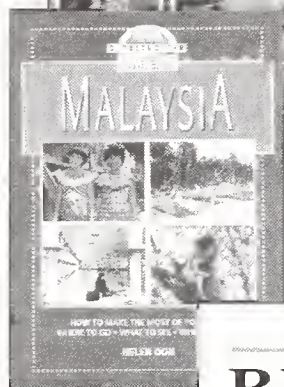
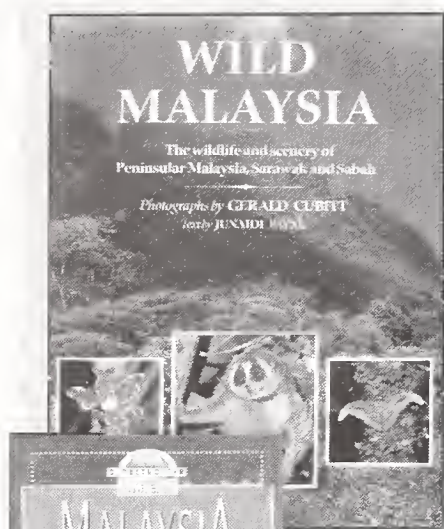
At Tam Dao, a tame female Japanese Robin *Erithacus akahige* on 7 February was the first for Vietnam and the second for South-East Asia (CR, BK - KingBird). An adult Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* near Phuc Yen, north-west of Hanoi, East Tonkin on 6 February is also of note (CR, BK - KingBird).

Contributors:

J. C. Anderton (JCA), Hikmat Bahadur Bisht (HBB), Hem Sagar Baral (HSB), Nalini Bayen (NB), Seb Buckton (SB), Bas van Balen (BvB), Jan Christensen (JC), I Wayan A. Dirgayusa (IWAD), Nick Dymond (ND), Will Duckworth (WD), Nick Gardner (NG), Derek Holmes (DH), Paul Holt (PH), Ronnie Halder (RH), Allen Jeyarajasingam (AJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Minu Johnson (MJ), Paul Jepson (PJ), Anisuzaman Khan (AK), Ben King (BK), Bed Bahadur Khadka (BBK), Reza Khan (RK), John O'Malley (JOM), Sue O'Malley (SOM), Paul Mondal (PM), Rod Martins (RM), Rabinda Manandhar (RaM), Victor Mason (VM), Mike Ounsted (MO), Rosy Ounsted (RO), Rebecca Pradhan (RP), Craig Robson (CR), Pamela C. Rasmussen (PCR), S. M. A. Rashid (SR), Lim Kim Seng (LKS), Rex I. De Silva (RIS), William Simpson (WS), Paul Thompson (PT), Rob Timmins (RT), Per Undeland (PU), David Wells (DW), Rob Walton (RW).

Addendum:

Under the Indonesia section of *From the Field* in *Bull. OBC* 20, a record of Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* at Pontianak was described as the first for mainland Kalimantan, but this species was listed for the same locality by Chasen (1935), and the statement that Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca* is not previously recorded on Ambon is also incorrect, as it was listed as occurring there by Bishop (1992) *Kukila* 6(1): 8-34.



Wild Malaysia

The wildlife and scenery of the Malay Peninsula, Sarawak and Sabah

Photographs by Gerald Cubitt and text by Junaidi Payne

400 colour photographs

£24.99

Available



GlobeTrotter Guide to Malaysia

By Helen Oon

£5.99

Publication: January 1995

Photographic Field Guide: Birds of Australia

By Jim Flegg

800 colour photographs

£19.99

Available

For further information on New Holland natural history and travel titles contact:

Amanda Spiers or Heather Leithead

New Holland Publishers Ltd
24 Nutford Place
London W1H 6DQ

Tel 0171 724 7773

Fax: 0171 724 6184

new from Pica Press

WOODPECKERS by Hans Winkler and David A. Christie

Illustrated by David Nurney

64 colour plates, 416 pages

February 1995. £30.00

SWIFTS by Phil Chantler. Illustrated by Gerald Driessens

24 colour plates, 256 pages

August 1995. £26.00

SONGBIRDS OF TURKEY: an atlas of biodiversity of Turkish passerine birds

By C S Roselaar

256 pages, 144 maps

September 1995. £24.00

BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS by Urban Olsson and Jon Curson

Illustrated by Clive Byers

39 colour plates, 300 pages

October 1995. £28.00

SEALIFE edited by Geoffrey Waller and Michael Burchett

Illustrated by Marc Dando and Richard Hull

56 colour plates, 496 pages, 150 maps

November 1995. £28.00



**FOR A FREE CATALOGUE PLEASE WRITE OR FAX CHRISTOPHER HELM:
PICA PRESS, THE BANKS, MOUNTFIELD, NR. ROBERTSBRIDGE, E SUSSEX TN32 5JY
TEL: 01580 880561 FAX: 01580 880541**



NHBS

A book supply service for OBC members

◆ Exceptional Stock

- Most key field guides, site guides, handbooks and monographs permanently in stock
- Many unusual and difficult to obtain imports regularly in stock
- Comprehensive database of 40,000 titles covering all areas of natural history, ecology and the environment. Catalogues listing up to 13,000 titles issued twice a year.

◆ A Quality Mailorder Service

- Easy ordering - phone (6 lines), fax and E-mail
- Efficient ordering - rapid despatch of goods or acknowledgement of order within 3 working days, recorded order reports issued for unavailable items
- Easy payments, wherever you are - all major credit/charge cards, cheques, foreign currency payments (US\$, DM), transfer to any of our four international bank accounts.

◆ Customer Service you can rely on

- Professional trained staff, constantly on hand to help and advise you
- Language no problem - phone or write to us in French, German, Spanish, Italian
- Rapid responses to your queries - are there any books on Sarawak? Could you send books to me in Hong Kong? Do you have an express delivery service?
- A service adapted to the customer - private individuals, professional scientists, societies, institutions, and conservation organisations.
- Full standing order service for any series

NHBS is the official book supplier for members of the Oriental Bird Club, and a corporate sponsor of the OBC

Announcing NHBS BookNet

the first environmental bookstore on the World-Wide Web

<http://www.nhbs.co.uk>

NHBS is pleased to announce the launch of our new Web Site, at the heart of which is NHBS BookNet, a searchable catalogue of 40,000 in-print and forthcoming books, CD-ROMs, videos, reports, and other materials. NHBS BookNet users are offered a variety of sophisticated search and browse mechanisms -
an invaluable resource for oriental birders worldwide.

NATURAL HISTORY BOOK SERVICE

2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN

Tel: 01803-865913 (International: +44-1803-865913)

Fax: 01803-865280 (International: +44-1803-865280)

E-mail: nhbs@nhbs.co.uk

Web Site: <http://www.nhbs.co.uk>



A major new series...

BIRD FAMILIES OF THE WORLD



A new multi-volume series of handbooks intended to serve the interests of both the professional scientist and the ever-growing body of amateur ornithologists. Each volume includes a comprehensive and accurate synthesis of our knowledge of one bird family or several related families; with specially commissioned colour plates, details of biology, feeding, ecology, and breeding behaviour, black and white drawings, and species descriptions.

The Hornbills

Alan Kemp

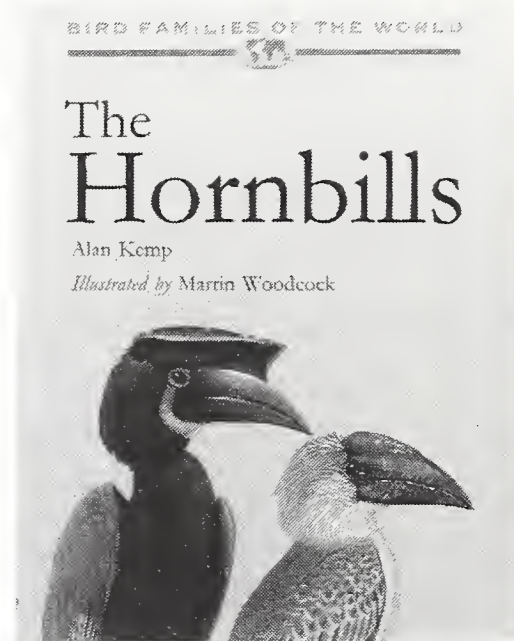
- The most authoritative account of Hornbills currently available
- Colour plates by Martin Woodcock

Introductory chapters give an overview of the family as a whole. All facets of hornbill life are described, including habitat and nesting behaviour. Then follow the 54 species accounts, each one giving a complete description of the bird in its natural state.

320 pages, 14 colour plates, 24 line drawings, 56 maps

March 1995

0-19-857729-X Hardback £40.00



The Megapodes

Darryl N. Jones, René W. R. J. Dekker, and Cees S. Roselaar

- First complete coverage of Megapodes for 110 years
- 8 colour plates by Ber van Perlo

The Megapodes describes and illustrates the 22 species in this fascinating bird family.

320 pages, 8 colour plates, 15 line drawings, 23 maps

April 1995

0-19-854651-3 Hardback £35.00

The Penguins

Tony D. Williams

- 8 colour plates by J. N. Davies, black and white drawings by John Busby

The Penguins describes and illustrates the 17 species in this appealing family of flightless swimming birds. Introductory chapters cover the varied biology of the whole group, and are followed by detailed species accounts and eight superb colour plates showing adults, immatures and chicks.

352 pages, 8 colour plates, 40 line drawings, 21 maps

March 1995

0-19-854667-X Hardback £35.00

24 hour Credit Card Hotline

Telephone +44 (0)1536 454534 or Fax +44 (0)1536 746337

For further information on Ornithology books please write to Sarah Carrington, Ref OBC595, SMJ Marketing, Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK. Fax: +44 (0)1865 267782

Oxford books are available through all good bookshops

Ref: OBC595

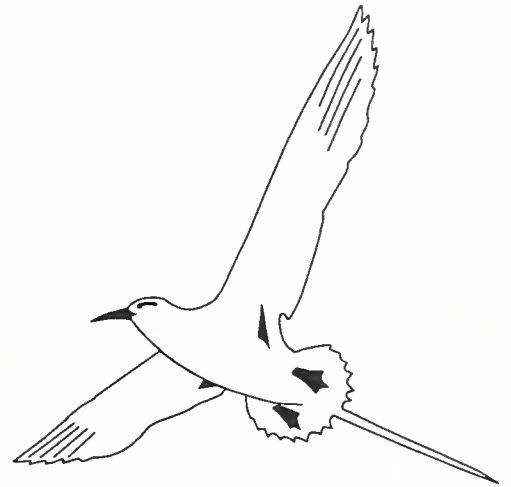


THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

*invites readers of the Oriental Bird Club's **Bulletin** into our membership. If you join the only North American association of and for birders, you will receive **Birding**, our bi-monthly magazine which gives active field birders the expertise they seek, and **Winging It**, a lively monthly newsletter with the latest happenings and rarities. Many ABA birdwatchers are available to advise or guide visitors to their local areas. These members are listed in our **Membership Directory**.*

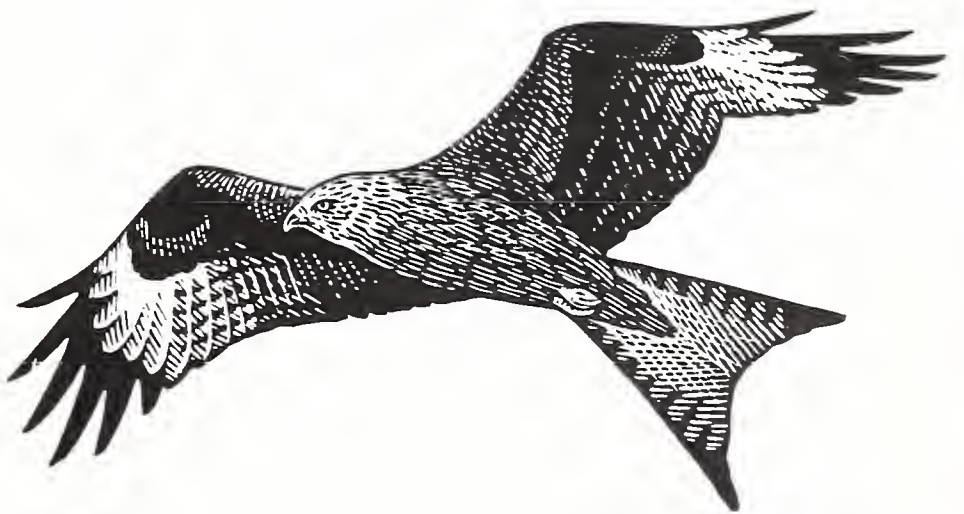
Annual Dues: US \$45.00
 Visa and MasterCard accepted

American Birding Association
 PO Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 USA
 phone: 719-578-1614 • fax: 719-578-1480



Europe's premier monthly bird magazine – now in full colour
At the top of the market for serious birders

BIRDING WORLD



The varied, lavishly illustrated articles in ***Birding World*** include:

authoritative identification texts by world experts,

practical overseas birding ranging from Costa Rica to Japan and from the Cape Verde Islands to the Czech Republic, and

news articles from Britain and abroad which are both up to date and authoritative, as well as fully illustrated in colour.

To receive the next 12 issues, just send £33 (or overseas £40 surface mail or £57 airmail) [or quote your VISA or Mastercard number and expiry date] to:

Birding World, Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the Sea, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7RY, UK

– or simply write to the same address and ask for a **FREE** sample issue.

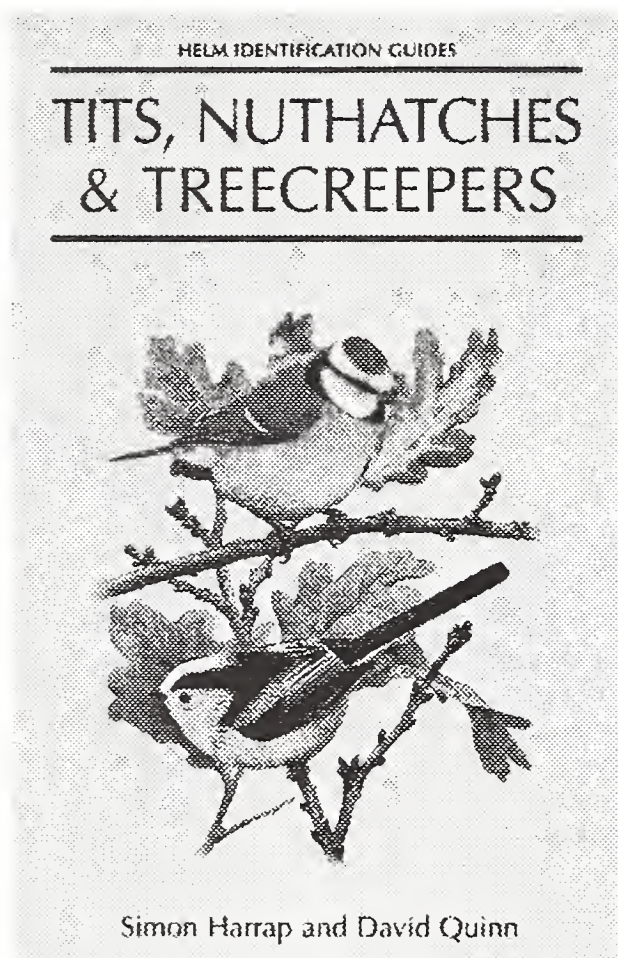
forthcoming from
**CHRISTOPHER
HELM**

TITS, NUTHATCHES & TREECREEPERS

A HELM IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

**Simon Harrap
and David Quinn**

There are 110 species covered in this highly illustrated and comprehensive guide to the world's tits, nuthatches and treecreepers. 36 detailed plates and 115 colour distribution maps illustrate all species. The text is exhaustive, covering everything from identification to breeding biology.



392pp lam bds £27.99
Published in October

Available through bookshops or in case of difficulty contact
**A&C Black Publishers, PO Box 19, Huntingdon,
Cambs PE19 3SF**
tel: (01480) 212666 fax: (01480) 405014

Instant Access to Your Bird Records

is yours with our time-saving,
easy-to-use computer programs

- maintain all your bird records
- update your lists instantly and systematically
- organise all your sightings and trip records at will
- produce your own checklists and trip reports

Bird Recorder 2 for Windows 3.1 and above
with manuals and World species database £85

Bird Recorder for DOS

with species database for W Palearctic £45 / World £58

NEW!
more
powerful,
easier to
use

Please add Postage UK nil, Europe £3, rest of world £7.

Specify 5 1/4 or 3 1/2' discs.

Payment: major credit cards or cheque to WCPS.

To order or for further information contact:

Wildlife Computing

Dept C4, 6 Fiddlers Lane,
East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6SJ
Tel 0206 298345 or 0850 658966



Lama Parivar

Village Trek and Chitwan 17 days
In co-operation with Wildlife Travel
Fri 23 Feb - Sun 11 March 1996 £835

Nepal Bird Tour 17 Days
Leader David White
Fri 29 Mar - Sun 14 April 1996 £949

Kangchenjunga 31 Days
Spring Rhododendron and Bird Trek
Fri 19 Apr - Sun 19 May 1996 £1195

Tibet Everest Trek 24 Days
Spring flowers - pre monsoon £1596
Fri 17 May - Sun 9 June 1996

Flights from London £470 - £670

For Brochure and Dossiers call or fax
Kay & David White 01248 353 589
Y Wern, Hwfa Road, Bangor LL57 2BN

ORNITHOLIDAYS

1996 *MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH TRAVEL AGENTS*

Holidays organised by Birdwatchers for Birdwatchers

Over thirty years' service for birdwatchers and naturalists

Trinidad & Tobago - Xmas 1995

The Gambia

Chile

Peru - Manu Reserve

Argentina

Belize & Tikal

Trinidad & Tobago

Yellowstone

The Falkland Islands

Canadian Rockies

Arctic Canada

Australia - Western

New Zealand

Jamaica

Kenya

Sri Lanka

Malaya & Borneo

Baikal & Ussuriland

Thailand

Bhutan & Assam

South Africa

Uganda

Namibia

Ethiopia

Seychelles

Morocco

Israel

Cyprus

Arctic Norway

Slovakia

Austria - Lake

Neusiedl

Romania

Hungary

Poland

The Camargue

Cevennes

Majorca

Cota Doñana &

Extramadura

Pyrenees &

Spanish Steppes

Jaca

NE Greece

Crete

Czech Republic



Write or phone for a brochure to:

ORNITHOLIDAYS

**1/3 VICTORIA DRIVE,
BOGNOR REGIS, SUSSEX**

PO21 2PW U.K.

Telephone 01243 821230

ATOL Licence No. 743



ABTA



'A great way to fly...'



ASIA - CURRENT RETURN FARES FROM

BANGKOK	£335	DELHI	£286
DHAKA	£335	KARACHI	£270
KATHMANDU	£389	PARO	£RQ
KABUL	£RQ	BEIJING	£324
RANGOON	£378	TOKYO	£464
MANILA	£475	SEOUL	£499
TAIPEI	£583	HANOI	£448
PHNOM PENH	£448	KUALA LUMPUR	£394
JAKAR TA	£421	ULAN BATOR	£383
SINGAPORE	£394	HONG KONG	£427
KOTA KINABALU	£572	PORT MORESBY	£829

AIRPASSES ★ GROUND ARRANGEMENTS ★ CAR HIRE

HOLIDAYS FOR BIRDWATCHERS 1996

HONG KONG 13 – 27 APRIL

BEIDAIHE 1 – 19 MAY

TRAVEL INSURANCE £35 FOR UP TO 31 DAYS



0117 984 8040
0603 767757

THE BULLETIN OF THE ORIENTAL BIRD CLUB provides a forum for news, notices, recent publications, expedition results, reviews and preliminary or interim publication of studies on Oriental birds by contributors from all parts of the world. Publication of interim results in the OBC Bulletin does not preclude publication of final results as journal papers either by the OBC or elsewhere. Contributions are considered by the Editor and an Editorial Committee with contributions accepted subject to editing and refereeing where appropriate. Copies of new journals, books or reports for mention or reviewing are always welcomed. Contributions or enquiries should be sent to the Bulletin Editor, Oriental Bird Club, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, UK.

Guidelines for contributors

Whilst the Editor is always pleased to discuss possible contributions with potential authors, and to advise on preparation, it would be helpful if the following guidelines could be adhered to:

1. **Articles** These should be written clearly, preferably typed, on one side of the page, with all lines double-spaced, leaving wide margins, and should be no longer than 2,000 words. Scientific names should appear at the first mention of each species or, if all species appear in a table, they may be given there instead. Scientific names should, where possible, follow C. G. Sibley and B. L. Monroe (1990) *Distribution and taxonomy of birds of the world*.

Any tables to accompany articles should be prepared on separate pieces of paper, and be thoroughly checked. Titles of tables should be self-explanatory. Diagrams should be clearly drawn, in ink, ideally 15cm wide and 11cm high. References should be cited in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in the same style used in this Bulletin.

It would be helpful if *two* copies of each contribution could be submitted.

2. **From the field** These should follow the format in the current edition of the OBC Bulletin, and be sent to the Bulletin Editor, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K.

3. **News/Information** Typed or handwritten contributions should be sent to the Bulletin Editor, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL, U.K.

Although every effort is made to retain all articles in their submitted form, the Editorial Committee reserves the right to make changes that it deems necessary, and, in a minimum of cases, without prior reference to the author. It is assumed that all contributors submitting material understand and accept these conditions.

For **Around the Orient**, **Recently Published**, **Stray Feathers** and **Free Press**, the deadline for submission of material is 1 March (May Bulletin) and 1 September (November Bulletin). The deadlines do not apply to main articles which will be published as soon as possible after acceptance by the Editorial Committee.

WINNER (Over £300)

BINOCULAR OF THE YEAR

The Award Winning High Performance
Lighter Weight 8 x 32 BA.



Winner of BIRD WATCHING'S Optical Product Award, Binocular of the Year, these good looking all purpose binoculars are confirmed as excellent value. Offering brilliant viewing and easy handling, with an optical system that gives optimal freedom from flare and perfect colour fidelity.

With less than one rotation of the central drive, the entire focusing range is revealed. Now it's easy to cover the ground, with a 135 metre field of view (at 1,000 metres) and close focusing to 3.25 metres.

The BIRD WATCHING judges "unanimously praised the superb optical performance and excellent build quality of the German optics. Compact and comfortable to use, the lock-in eye diopter and pop-up eye-cups were definite plus points. A superb package that offers optimum performance for discerning birdwatchers."

WINNER LEICA 10 x 25 BCA
Binocular of the year (compact)



Also available LEICA 8 x 20 BC/BCA



The LEICA 42 series - 7 X 42 BA,
8 X 42 BA and 10 X 42 BA

Leica

The freedom to see.

For further information on the LEICA 8 x 32 BA, send the coupon to:
Leica Camera Ltd, P.O. Box 1704, Milton Keynes, MK17 9RH
(NOT FOR PRODUCT SERVICE)

Other product information available - please tick box:

LEICA Binoculars ☐ LEICA R7 ☐ LEICA R6.2 ☐ LEICA M6 ☐
LEICA Mini Zoom ☐ LEICA Projectors ☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Telephone 01908 666663 for general and service enquiries.